

Liberals aim to force quick general election

The Liberals will strive to force a general election at the earliest opportunity. Mr David Steel, their leader, made clear yesterday as delegates assembled for the annual conference at Southport. He urged them not to let their spirits flag and to use the time to improve the organization and complete their policies.

Mr Steel urges party to tighten organization

From Hugh Noyes

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, made clear yesterday as delegates assembled at Southport for the opening of the party's annual conference that there would be no further cooperation to sustain the Labour Government in power and that every effort would be made to force a general election at the earliest opportunity.

In a message to delegates as they gathered for the conference which in recent years has decided motions for the party's annual conference, Mr Steel said that the danger of allowing support to be used to postpone proceedings at Southport was a real one. He said that the Prime Minister's announcement that there would be no autumn election. As Liberal leaders strove to persuade themselves from Government policy in as many regions as possible, Mr Steel said delegates not to allow his spirits to flag.

"My view on the need for election has not changed," said Mr Steel. "I warned the Prime Minister that if he did not give a country the chance to go to the polls, then the Liberals would do all we could to force him to seek a mandate. Polling day is now being postponed, but it will not be delayed long."

Mr Steel said that the party would take every advantage of extra time gained to tighten its election organization. He said that the time to complete the canvasses, to find extra last few candidates, to put the party's name in the constituencies to the future.

The first opportunity for the Liberals to unite with other parties in an attempt to bring down the Government will be to vote at the end of the debate on the Queen's Speech opening the next session of Parliament. That will take place in late October.

Mr Steel said that the party was making no secret of its determination to vote against the Government at that occasion.

Mr Cyril Smith, MP for Rochdale, told *The Times* that he had been assured by Mr Steel that the party would vote against the Government and that in any case he intended to vote against it, whatever the party decided.

"If the Government guarantee that the party will vote against it, I will vote against it," Mr Steel said.

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Losses soar as slump hits Port of London

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

The Port of London is losing trade at an alarming rate while management and unions work out the new manpower deal ordered by the Government in the early summer.

Figures to be released by the Port of London Authority shortly will show a marked drop in both traffic and financial returns in the first half of the year, with general cargo traffic down a massive 30 per cent and the 1978 deficit now expected to be about last year's loss.

The upper docks, which the Government decreed should stay open against the advice of the P.L.A., are particularly badly hit, with general cargo down a third from 750,000 tons in the first half of last year to 500,000 tons.

Losses on the upper docks look like doubling to around £20 million, with a further £10 million in overheads and other costs last year. The P.L.A. yesterday attributed the trade losses to:

A more rapid change to containers than expected, notably in the Middle East and Mediterranean trades on which the upper docks are heavily dependent.

Industrial troubles earlier this year which were largely responsible for the diversion of more than 100 ships and loss of £1.4m revenue; and

Uncertainty over the port's future which is causing some shipping lines to make secure arrangements elsewhere.

News of the port's worsening fortunes comes at a critical time in the key talks which are taking place weekly between P.L.A. management and 12 union leaders representing the port's 8,400 workforce.

The Government's aim of £35m in savings from the port's operations by the end of the year is being questioned by the unions, who say that the port's losses are too large to be made up by savings.

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Mourning in Iran: Troops looked on but did not intervene as a procession shouting anti-Shah slogans took the body of a demonstrator shot last week for burial yesterday. The Iranian capital was quiet but the bazaar remained closed for the fifth day in an apparent protest (Tony Allaway writes from Tehran).

Military authorities, presumably on Government orders, began a widely publicized purge yesterday of officials and businessmen suspected of corruption and involvement in the Shah's regime. A military communiqué said that among those held was Mr Chojedini, a former Health Minister, who ran a very unpopular national health insurance scheme involving high payments for very little health care. Others included the former president of the Guilds Chamber and various businessmen. Newspapers said many others faced the same fate, including Mr Mansour Rohani, a former Agriculture Minister, and Mr Gholam Reza Nikouy, former Mayor of Tehran. Reports said the passports of many people had been impounded but Mr Rohani and others had already fled.

Paris: Dr Ali Amin, Prime Minister of Iran in 1961, alleged here that 2,000 demonstrators had been killed by Iranian troops. Tehran political winter, page 6

Smallpox victim dies: source still unknown

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Birmingham branch of the National Union of Journalists is expected to lodge a complaint to the Press Council that the coroner's criticism struck at journalists' rights to make legitimate inquiries. The Birmingham Evening Mail said that several of the Press Council's members had been approached by the coroner's family and offered to support any complaint to the Press Council by providing notes of the evidence.

Stocks rallied: The number of laboratories holding stocks of smallpox virus, the one at Birmingham University has been formally requested, the World Health Organisation said yesterday. (Associated Press via ports from Geneva).

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Irate Mr Nkomo rules out all-party talks

From Lawrence Pinta

Lusaka, Sept 11

Anglo-American hopes for achieving a negotiated solution to the Rhodesian conflict were laid to rest today as Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front, announced that he would not take part in any all-party conference and raised the curtain on what is certain to be a bloody end to the battle for control in Rhodesia.

Mr Nkomo, co-leader of the Patriotic Front, said that the latest speech by Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, had put him "on the warpath" with the guerrillas and eliminated any chance of new talks.

"I don't think there is anything to talk about," Mr Nkomo told reporters at a press conference. The only way he would meet the Rhodesian Prime Minister was in a "broken man" and predicted that the war would escalate, victory will be ours.

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Smallpox victim dies: source still unknown

From Arthur Osman

Birmingham

Intensive scientific inquiries have failed to identify the source of the smallpox virus that caused the death yesterday of Mrs Janet Parker, aged 40, who had spent 18 days in isolation.

An inquest will be opened today by Mr J. W. Brown, the West Midlands Coroner. Evidence of identification will be given by Mr Joseph Parker, who did not see his wife again after she was taken to hospital. Mr Parker, Post Office clerk, was himself in strict quarantine until the weekend and unable to visit.

Police said that the inquest was to establish formal identification and to assess an order for releasing the "secret" and his family had offered to support any complaint to the Press Council by providing notes of the evidence.

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Move to prevent Front poll broadcasts

By Robert Parker

The Anti Nazi League yesterday announced a joint drive with the campaign against racism in the media aimed at preventing any poll broadcasts by the National Front during an election campaign.

The action is intended to stop all reporting of the National Front on television and radio and in newspapers except where that reporting "exposes" the Front.

The campaign was announced by Mr Peter Hain of the League. It will be followed on tonight by a meeting in London, to be chaired by Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians.

Mr Hain said yesterday he hoped the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority would not agree to election broadcasts by the National Front. He said a plea for a ban would be mounted outside Broadcasting House on Thursday and that a letter would be handed in to the director-general.

If that failed, he said, then he was confident that members of the association and other unions would "pull the plug" and prevent a National Front broadcast.

Mr Hain said he fully understood the concept of freedom of speech which most journalists cherished, but such freedom was not absolute. "Theatrical and straightforward reporting of the National Front was tantamount to inciting racial hatred and violence. There was no legal basis for the Front demanding television coverage," he said.

Continued on page 6, col 1

Syrian leader criticizes Camp David

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Sept 11

Strong criticism of the Camp David summit talks by President Assad of Syria was published in West Germany today as he arrived here for a five-day state visit.

Any separate agreement between Israel and Egypt would not last long and would be in favour of Israel, not the Arabs, he was quoted as saying in the weekly newsmagazine *Der Spiegel*.

Declarations of principle would be the end of the matter, President Assad asserted. "It will not bring peace."

One single Arab state, he said, cannot make peace. It must involve all Arab countries. "A separate peace will have only a short life. What started wrong will stay wrong. Perhaps Sadat will achieve a declaration of principle formulated by himself, but that will produce nothing."

The Arabs, he said, "cannot accept territorial compromises because such compromises are unjust... and compromises are the most that President Sadat will be able to achieve in America."

Thurmont, Maryland, Sept 11.—The Middle East summit reached a critical stage and the next two days will decide the outcome, Mr Jody Powell, the White House Press Secretary, said yesterday. It is too early to make a judgement about the final outcome of the conference. Neither optimism nor pessimism is particularly justified at this time. We will have to wait and see.

He said the weekend pause was now being followed by more intense and detailed efforts to break the impasse. Mr Powell denied that the absence of a three-way meeting since Thursday meant a stalemate. —Reuter.

Photograph page 3

Letter bomb at Iraqi Embassy

By Stewart Tandler

Foreign Reporter

An explosives expert yesterday defused a letter bomb sent to the Iraqi Embassy in Queen's Gate, London. It was the third incident involving the embassy in the past two months.

The bomb was posted at the end of last month and is thought to be similar to a device sent to the Iraqi Embassy in Bonn last week. It was in a white package measuring 10 in by 4 in by 4 in.

The letter was addressed by a man in English and Arabic, saying it was delivered yesterday morning and called Commander James Norrill, head of the anti-terrorist unit, said last night that the bomb was thought to be the work of a professional rather than a home-made.

Shortly after the British Government expelled 11 Iraqis last night because of suspected links with terrorism, a grenade was thrown at the Iraqi ambassador's car. Last month a senior Iraqi diplomat in Iraq.

Prices indicate inflation control

By Stewart Tandler

Foreign Reporter

Inflation appears to be under control at least until the end of the year, according to wholesale price indicators, and the retail sales trend remains buoyant despite only a small change in August. The Government is standing by its borrowing forecasts despite borrowing £1,041m in August.

Some hope of averting a widening of the toolmakers' strike at British Leyland emerged last night only hours after Mr Michael Edwards, Leyland's chief executive, issued a warning that large-scale redundancies would be unavoidable if major disputes occurred.

Tough Chamoun role
Mr Camille Chamoun, leader of Lebanon's right-wing militia fighting Syrian peace-keeping troops, has spoken of his determination to continue the struggle for "liberation" which he believes can be achieved only when Syrian troops have gone.

School staff cut
Government policy on school staffing envisages a cut of almost 100,000 teachers by 1990 to counter an expected decline in the number of children at school, according to long-range spending forecasts.

Record harvest hope

By Stewart Tandler

Foreign Reporter

A combination of high yields and an enlarged cereal area may give Britain its second successive record harvest. Latest figures suggest that yields of wheat, oats and potatoes are higher than a year ago in England and Wales.

Nicaragua rebellion
President Somoza of Nicaragua declared martial law in two provinces as the rebel offensive aimed at throwing him from power led to more heavy fighting. He rushed reinforcements to the city of Masaya where rebels attacked the National Guard headquarters.

Monza closure urged
The death of Ronnie Peterson, the world's second fastest man, after being killed by a Formula One car in a multiple crash in the Italian Grand Prix, brought renewed demands for the closure of a Monza circuit.

Naming bootleggers
Football Club is to publish in its match programmes the names, addresses and offences of those supporters convicted of bootlegging.

Washington: Democrats clash today in 13 primaries
Loch Lomond: Scots abroad are being asked to help the Friends of Loch Lomond to fight against a power station scheme there.

Housing: A four-page Special Report on political pressures, the private and public sector, ownership and new technology

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Continued on page 6, col 1

HOME NEWS

Nearly 100,000 cut in teachers likely to offset loss of pupils

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Nearly 100,000 will be cut from the teaching force of England and Wales over the next 12 years if present Government policy on school staffing continues.

Public expenditure plans published in January are based on the assumption that the number of teachers in maintained primary and secondary schools will fall from this year's record 470,800 to 452,200 in 1981-82.

Unpublished Government long-range spending forecasts show that numbers are expected to continue to fall to 400,000 by 1986 and to 375,000 by 1990, even if allowances for in-service training and for "dis-economies" of falling school rolls continue at the same level as under the present five-year expenditure plan. Natural wastage could theoretically absorb much of the required reduction.

The Government has long recognized that teacher numbers could not fall at the same rate as pupil numbers if educational standards were to be maintained. Schools had to be permitted to continue to employ a basic range of specialists, despite falling rolls.

In some subjects, like mathematics, the physical sciences, crafts, remedial education, extra staff might be needed to counter continuing shortages.

In its public expenditure plans, the Government has allowed for the employment of an extra 6,800 teachers this year and a further 7,600 in each of the three following years, above the number needed to equate the rates of decline in pupil and teacher numbers.

It has also allowed for an extra 10,400 this year, rising to 17,300 by 1981-82, so that induction arrangements for the newly qualified can be improved, and to enable an expansion of on-the-job training and retraining.

In-service training will become increasingly important as falling school rolls and a contracting teaching force create a greater "mismatch" between staff qualifications and school needs. The willingness of teachers to be redeployed will be crucial.

No one, including the Government, knows exactly how many extra staff will be needed to maintain standards over the next decade and beyond. Fluctuations in the birth rate and any increase in the number deciding to stay at school after 16 will also affect forecasts.

The number of pupils in maintained schools in England and Wales grew from five million in 1946 to a peak of nine million last year. Numbers are expected to fall to 7,340,000 by 1986 and to 7,165,000 by 1991, though they could fall to as few as 6,490,000 if a "low" projection of the birth rate proves correct.

Unions are worried about the effect that falling rolls could have on employment, salary scales and promotion prospects, and the National Union of Teachers has organized three conferences on falling rolls this autumn.

A working party of the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body for teachers' pay, is studying the impact of falling rolls on the system of remuneration, which is geared to a growing school population.

About 30,000 leave each year to retire or for other reasons. If the present wastage rate continued and if no new teachers were employed, the force could be reduced by 360,000 over the next 12 years, nearly four times the reduction expected to be needed to serve current policy.

Boy aged 15 is Lassa fever suspect after Nigeria visit

A boy of 15 is in an isolation hospital in London suspected of having Lassa fever, the tropical disease. He has recently returned to Britain from Nigeria, where the disease is endemic.

Lassa fever attacks the kidneys and the mortality rate is high. The boy, who had not been named last night, is being kept for observation and tests at Coppen's Wood Hospital, Muswell Hill.

The hospital emphasized: "The disease has not been confirmed and we expect to know something a little more definite by Wednesday after some tests."

The boy, who lives in Portsmouth, went to his family doctor last Friday with a high temperature. He was taken to St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, for observation and transferred to Coppen's Wood on Sunday on the advice of a consultant.

Oil sanction assurance is sought by Whitehall

By David Sponner
Diplomatic Correspondent

The Foreign Office reacted with some haste yesterday to follow up the latest allegations that British oil companies are still helping Rhodesia. Officials were in touch with the head offices of BP and Shell to find out what the oil companies had to say to the report of new Foreign Office arrangements.

Moreover, the Foreign Office is announcing its action publicly, was careful to avoid either endorsing the new charges or accepting BP's denials.

Meanwhile, Commonwealth countries meeting to review policy issues in the Committee on Southern Africa, expressed concern yesterday at the latest reports on sanctions breaking and called for a special session to consider the whole issue, after publication of the British report. That is expected in the next few days.

The new allegations, contained in a report in *The Sunday Times*, are that BP and Shell subsidiaries in South Africa are still helping oil to reach Rhodesia by making up the stocks of the South African company, Sasol, which is actually supplying Rhodesia.

BP denies the allegations, as reported in *The Times* yesterday, and says that the new report is wrong.

"We are studying carefully the allegations made in *The Sunday Times*", the Foreign Office statement said. "We have noted what BP have said about this story. We are in touch with the oil companies to satisfy ourselves that no doubt exists about the assurances they had received from their South African subsidiaries."

Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, said last week that he had been assured that since the summer of last year no oil from British companies was reaching Rhodesia via the companies' subsidiaries.

The Foreign Office's statement yesterday indicates that Dr Owen now wants to make assurance doubly sure, by having the oil companies check back on the assurances they received from their subsidiaries.

Assaulted man killed his benefactor

Paul West, aged 20, of no fixed address, vowed to kill a man who picked him up in a London amusement park in 1976 and later sexually assaulted him, it was stated at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

But instead he killed another man who saw him wandering around Piccadilly Circus.

Mr John Black, aged 62, a receptionist, offered to house Mr West until he found a job. Mr West went with Mr Black to his flat in Denbigh Street, Pimlico, and stabbed him to death, Mr Kenneth Richardson, for the prosecution, said.

Mr West, who pleads not guilty to murder, but guilty to manslaughter, had told the police: "He was not the original bloke but I did not care. I just wanted anybody."

Mr Justice O'Connor sent him to Broadmoor without limit after hearing that Mr West had a psychopathic disorder and had fantasies about attacking people.

Campaign to stop National Front poll broadcasts

Continued from page 1

time, he maintained. He quoted from an alleged interview with National Front document which showed that the only reason the Front was putting up a large number of candidates was to get radio and television time.

He said all journalists had a duty to expose the Nazi roots of the Front and show what a menace they are to race relations.

Mr Hain said he was encouraged by the response from television technicians. Copies of the ANL pamphlet *No place for Nazi Thugs* had been widely circulated and the fact that Mr Sapper had agreed to chair tonight's meeting indicated the level of support.

The Front said it had been negotiating with the committee concerned on how much time it should be given for election broadcasts. It has argued that because it intends to put up more than 250 candidates it deserves more than the five minutes normally given to a party with 50 candidates.

Mr Martin Webster, a leading member of the Front, said yesterday that the ANL campaign was tyrannous and corrupt. "The demand that subversive action be taken to interfere with the normal course of the election, with the right of parties to propagate their views

and the right of the electorate to hear of the parties' views at first hand, simply shows that the ANL is thoroughly Nazi," he said.

The BBC would not comment last night on the campaign but said it would take every reasonable step to ensure that allocated party broadcasts went ahead.

Mr Denis MacShane, president of the National Union of Journalists, yesterday presented an NUJ booklet called *Black and Front* which will be distributed among the union's 30,000 members to remind them of established and existing policy on journalists and race reporting.

The booklet, which cost £1,000 to produce, is intended as an injunction to journalists, Mr Lionel Morrison, principal information officer of the Commission for Racial Equality and chairman and founder of the union's race relations subcommittee, said.

In the booklet Mr MacShane criticizes examples of race reporting and lists do's and don'ts. He says race reports demand more care than almost any other kind, and that managers should be pressed to recruit from ethnic minorities. The word "black" should not be used unless it was essential.

Lord Hesketh denies taking share of cash

Lord Hesketh, the motor racing enthusiast who was the witness box all day at Middlesex Crown Court yesterday, denied that he had been aware that paper belonging to a company which was a director was being sold for cash which he had had a fifth to a quarter of the proceeds.

Two former directors of the *Wiltshire Paper Company* and a former secretary employed by the company, have pleaded not guilty to six charges alleging that between April 25 and October 25, 1974, they sold £34,215 belonging to the company.

The defendants are Walter Lesley Burton, aged 35, of View Road, Highgate, John David

Miller, aged 35, of Woodland Way, Friern Barnet, both London; and Miss Marianne Sheldale Knudsen aged 30, of Wilton Road, Friern Barnet.

The prosecution has alleged that money paid for paper was paid into the personal account of Miss Knudsen and shared between Mr Miller and Mr Burton.

Lord Hesketh, in evidence, said that he former Hesketh Finance Ltd in 1972 to channel his private money into investment and that he financed the paper company.

While in Kuwait in March, 1975, Mr Miller suggested that he had been getting a cut on the proceeds of paper sold for cash.

Lord Hesketh added: "I



Return of "The King": Yul Brynner, aged 53, at the London Palladium yesterday after it was announced that he will again play the King in a new production of the musical *The King and I* at the theatre next June.

Mr Callaghan urged to delay European poll

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

The Prime Minister, in the wake of his decision not to hold a general election this autumn, is being pressed to postpone direct elections to the European Parliament.

Last night anti-market forces on the party's home policy committee argued against the elections being held in June. Although no final decision was taken, Mr Wedgwood Benn, the committee's chairman, was asked to give their view to Mr Callaghan.

If he was forced to accept their view—and the issue could be raised at the party's conference in October—it would cause a storm in the European Community.

Anti-market forces argued last night that Labour would not be in a position to fight the elections because of the strain next year on financial and organizational resources due to development referendums in Scotland and Wales, local elections and a possible general election.

Although it was not stated at the meeting, the party is understood to have promised the trade unions that if they campaign with funds to fight a general election the party will not ask them to help to fight the direct elections to the European Parliament.

Mr Eric Heffer, an ardent anti-market, said that to

Mr Steel's fighting talk pleases the party delegates

From George Clark
Political Correspondent

Southport

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, who goes to Southport today for the opening of the Liberal Party assembly, pleased party delegates last night when he said in a television interview that the 13 Liberals in Parliament would join Conservatives to oppose the Government in November on the Queen's Speech, and that he was not in favour of any covert "understanding" that might enable the Government to continue day by day, week by week.

If the Government won the crucial vote on the Queen's Speech, the Liberals would judge each issue on merit.

With about 500 Liberal candidates poised for a general election, Mr Steel's message to delegates urged them not to allow their spirits to flag, and to press on with preparations.

In the BBC programme Nationwide, Mr Steel had his opportunity to comment on the Prime Minister's statement that he had no intention of sharing the programme with Mr David Owen, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, and Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, a former Conservative Party chairman.

Mr Owen was anxious to emphasize that constitutionally the Commons decided whether a Government could continue in office.

"You now live in a reality

'Emotional response' blocks housing authority Sectarian disputes complicate Belfast resettlement plans

From John Young
Planning Reporter

Belfast

It is inconceivable that a public housing authority can be so blatantly anti-Protestant in its policy. The Save the Shankill Campaign are totally opposed to any proposal to force the Protestant community away from Cregar Street, in order to facilitate the building of new houses for Catholics.

Those words from Mr James Smyth, the campaign chairman, vividly illustrate the sort of difficulties facing the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in its efforts to tackle the city's appalling housing conditions.

For local authorities in Britain, aggrieved at what they feel to be lack of sympathy and support, a closer look at Belfast might be salutary.

It is just over 18 months since the Government announced a £120m housing programme to tackle the worst areas of deprivation. So far the executive is financially on target, having spent £31m in 1977-78.

In that year 1,500 people from council estates were rehoused outside the city; 770 new or improved homes completed within Belfast; 1,400 loans authorized to would-be owner-occupiers; 800 improvement grants sanctioned; repairs granted, averaging £45, made available to 15,000 house-holders and landlords.

But given last year's estimate of 15,000 derelict houses, more than 60,000 classified as unfit for habitation, and 30,000 people on the waiting list, progress can hardly be described as startling.

The Save the Shankill Campaign spotlights only part of the sectarian problem. The fact is that over the years large numbers of Protestants have been enabled to move out of their former enclaves to new suburban estates, and within the city there are not enough Protestants to fill the existing houses.

"Save the Shankill is simply an emotional response", Mr Colin James, the executive's corporate planning officer, declares. "We're not to remain and renovate all the old houses, only the old and the underprivileged would want to live there."

Jim Smyth has suggested that we should rebuild at a density of 30 houses to the acre; the minister's reply was that that would recreate the nineteenth-century problems all over again. What we want is to create an environment attractive enough to lure young people back from the suburbs.

For the Roman Catholics huddled in their old slum quarters alongside the Falls Road, the position is quite the reverse. While "Protestant" flats on relatively new estates remain empty through lack of demand, or are offered to hospitals or the University for nurses or student accommodation and find no takers, the Catholics have simply nowhere to go.

In their traditional areas of west Belfast, topography is a

Ulster Liberal would like Army to leave

From Our Parliamentary Staff

Southport

A British Army presence the delicate situation in Northern Ireland was a risk it should not be taken, Mr P. Emerson, a member of the executive of the Ulster Liberal Party, said in Southport yesterday. The British Army was capable of impartiality.

"I am against the idea of the 18-year-old dole-beggars from the trouble spots of Brixton should be given a gun and told to keep peace in a land they do not know and do not understand," he said. "The blame does not lie with the soldier but with the British Government." He was speaking at a seminar on Northern Ireland on the eve of the Liberal assembly.

One of the lessons of Ulster was that the majority rule of a democracy was a failure of state. It must be replaced by a more advanced system of democracy, he said.

Mr Desmond Wilson, a community worker in Ballymagy, west Belfast, said he believed the Provisional IRA when they said that if the war was a declaration of intent the British Government withdraw the war would end.

Liberals were urged by Jeremy Burchill, former Ulster member of the Northern Ireland Convention, to adopt a policy of trying to store, certainty, stability; confidence to the people of Ulster.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded
Dynamics are an advancing signal

Today
Sun rises: 6.30 am. Sun sets: 7.23 pm.
Moon rises: 12.59 am. Moon sets: 4.42 pm.
Full Moon: September 16.
Lighting up: 7.33 pm to 6.2 am.
High water: London Bridge, 9.37 am, 6.0m (19.8ft); 10.24 pm, 6.2m (20.3ft).
Low water: London Bridge, 1.49 am, 0.9m (3.0ft); 1.33 pm, 10.3m (33.7ft).
Dover, 7.16 am, 5.5m (18.1ft); 7.39 pm, 5.7m (18.8ft).
Hull, 1.49 am, 6.0m (19.8ft); 1.44 pm, 6.1m (19.9ft).
Liverpool, 7.24 am, 7.7m (25.2ft); 8.5 pm, 8.0m (26.2ft).

A ridge of high pressure will move E across Britain, with trough of low pressure approaching NW areas.
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE, central S, central N, mild and sunny or sunny periods; wind NW, light or moderate; max temp 15° to 20°C (59° to 68°F).
East Angles, E, NE England, Dry, sunny periods but a few showers near coast at first; wind NW, moderate, backing SW; max temp 18°C (64°F).
SW England, S Wales: Dry with bright spells; wind W or SW, moderate; max temp 18°C (64°F).
N Wales, NW England, Lake District, rain; sun.

trict, tale of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Dry with bright periods, becoming more cloudier, perhaps with rain; wind W, light, backing SW, moderate; max temp 15° to 17°C (59° to 63°F).
Belfast, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen: Mostly dry with bright spells; cloudier later with a little rain after dark; wind W, light, backing SW, moderate; max temp 17°C (63°F).
Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Dry and bright, becoming more cloudy with a little rain; wind W, light, backing SW, moderate; max temp 15°C (59°F).
Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: Dry and bright at first, cloudy with rain later; wind W, light, backing SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 14° to 16°C (57° to 61°F).
Orkney, Shetland: Scattered showers, sun, gulls, cloudier later; wind NW, backing SW, light or moderate; max temp 13°C (55°F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Rain or showers in most places; temp near normal; mostly dry with sun at intervals.
Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind NW, moderate or fresh; sea moderate.
English Channel (E): Wind NW, backing W, light or moderate; sea slight.
St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W or SW, moderate; sea slight.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max, 7 am 11 pm, 20°C (68°F); min, 7 pm 7 am, 18°C (64°F). Humidity, pm 55 per cent. Rain, 24 hr 7 mm, 0.01 in. Sun, 24 hr 7.9 6.7hr. Bar. mean sea level, 7.9 1,013.4 millibars, rising. 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

At the resorts
24 hours to 6 pm, September 11

Resort	Sea	Wind	Temp	Humidity	Rain
Southport	7.6	18 to 18	64 to 64	55 to 55	0.0 to 0.0
Birmingham	7.6	18 to 18	64 to 64	55 to 55	0.0 to 0.0
Manchester	7.6	18 to 18	64 to 64	55 to 55	0.0 to 0.0
Cardiff	7.6	18 to 18	64 to 64	55 to 55	0.0 to 0.0
Edinburgh	7.6	18 to 18	64 to 64	55 to 55	0.0 to 0.0
Dundee	7.6	18 to 18	64 to 64	55 to 55	0.0 to 0.0
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Manchester	7.6	18 to 18	64 to 64</		

INSURANCE FOR BRITISH EXPORTERS

HOME NEWS

More 'legitimate' low air fares urged to defeat discounting

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Nearly all the buyers of discounted air tickets were satisfied with their bargain, according to a Department of Trade working party report published yesterday.

Difficulties, it pointed out, had been caused by failure to produce promised tickets, the demand for a surcharge for a return flight, and financial failure of an agency.

In one recent case, the working party said, a retail organization went into liquidation owing more than £600,000 to airlines and a similar amount to passengers. There was little prospect of any refund to passengers.

Although most sales were legitimate, it was believed that the company involved was engaged to some extent in discount selling. "In other cases users have been misled, or put to great inconvenience, by dishonest 'bucket-shop' operators, some of whom have been prosecuted for fraud.

"The difficulty has been to assess the actual numbers of those suffering, as people who realize that they have been involved in a 'shady deal' often do not complain when they suffer loss."

There was no indication, the

report said, that the demand for cheap air travel had reached its peak, but on the North Atlantic the availability of a wide range of cheap fares had almost eliminated unauthorized discounting.

While there had been an increase in traffic on those routes this year, the effect on airlines' finances was more doubtful. Nevertheless, there was scope for extension of some of the facilities now enjoyed by the North Atlantic traveller to other areas.

The trend was that legitimate low-fare facilities would spread, which would reduce the demand for discounted tickets.

The working party said that new legislation would not eliminate the harmful effects of discounting. The best interests of airlines, the travel trade and travellers would be served by encouraging in every way the expansion of legitimate low fare facilities with an economic return to efficient operators.

A simple comprehensive tariff filing system would be needed by the resulting fares structure, and should be introduced urgently. Once that had been achieved, it should be possible to pursue through the courts any illegal discounting of tickets that remained.

983 NHS hospitals criticized on food

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Food in preparation in National Health Service hospital kitchens has shown some improvement, but in the most recent survey of 1,627 hospitals 125 would have warranted prosecution had they not been protected by Crown immunity. The Environmental Health Officers' Association said yesterday.

The survey, the third conducted by the association, covered the year between September 1, 1976, and August 31, 1977, and is based on information from 353 completed questionnaires by local authority chief environmental health officers covering 78 per cent of the 2,400 hospitals in England and Wales.

Of the 1,627 hospitals visited in 3,839 visits, 983 were found to have food handling areas below the standards of food hygiene regulations.

Early this year a follow-up survey found that 82 hospitals had improved conditions to a degree that removed them from the "prosecutable" category.

But more capital expenditure on premises and equipment was needed to bring substandard kitchens up to a proper level. The association considered that Crown immunity must be removed, and that would be urged in the forthcoming review of the Food and Drugs Act.

The survey showed that the difficulties followed the same pattern as in previous years: just over half the contraventions concerned premises, 34 per cent general requirements, and 15 per cent the handling of food.

It was encouraging that in most of the 983 hospitals some action had been taken because of the survey. Only in 14 hospitals had recommendations by the association's officers not been accepted or acted on.



Pavilion school: Mrs Margaret McKay and her 14 pupils when the term began yesterday at their "school", the cricket pavilion in Maddingley village, Cambridge.

shire. County authorities closed the local school in July, saying it was uneconomic. The parents hope to buy the school from the Ely diocesan board and run it as an

Independent free school through a trust. Mrs McKay said: "The children think it is an adventure."

Liberal club officials see police

By Stewart Trender

Officials of the National Liberal Club have been interviewed by detectives from Scotland Yard's serious crimes squad who are investigating allegations concerning homosexuality and financial matters at the club.

The club stated yesterday that the officers had been interviewed at their own request. The police have been given details of the club accounts.

Detectives are also expected to request copies of a report prepared by auditors last year for a firm of management accountants who were brought in for a time to run the club.

The firm took over after Mr George De Chabris, a Canadian businessman, had run the club for some time amid controversy.

The Scotland Yard inquiry began last week after a member of the staff made allegations to Sir David McNea, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Similar allegations had been made earlier in the year by a former official who saw officers from Avon and Somerset police who were investigating the Norman Scott affair.

The former official's statement was included in the police report on the Scott affair to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Last week he was seen by officers from the Metropolitan Police.

The allegations claim that homosexual incidents at the club involved young employees and a senior member of the staff. There were also allegedly violent incidents and the man eventually left.

Questions were also raised about the finances of the club.

Cutting identity errors in air war

By Henry Stanhope

Specifications for a new Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) system for all Nato aircraft are under discussion by the Western allies, RAF sources disclosed yesterday. But they denied a report that there was anything wrong with the Mark-10A IFF equipment at present installed in all the RAF's operational aircraft.

Anti-aircraft forces "interrogate" a pilot's IFF system electronically before deciding whether they should try to shoot him down.

The need for a fast, fool-proof system has increased in recent years because of the high-speed, low-level missions flown by modern aircraft and the development of electronic jamming and deception techniques.

In 1974 more than 60 Nato aircraft were "shot down" by their own side in a naval exercise because of a lack of standardization in Nato electronic communications equipment.

Some of the criticism yesterday came from air Vice-Marshal Norman Hood (ret), director of the Air League, who said that in some cases the equipment was now too slow in eliciting the vital signal. In consequence RAF jets returning from strike missions against the enemy were in danger of being shot down by British missiles while crossing the coast.

The RAF said, however, that its IFF equipment was as good as that used by other Nato air forces, and was entirely "interoperable" with them.

"While it would be wrong to suggest there is no risk at

all of an aircraft of either side being shot down by its own forces in the heat of a battle, with IFF and other measures we reduce the risk of shooting down our own aircraft to the minimum.

RAF aircraft are no more vulnerable in this respect than the any other Nato ally. Aircraft identification does not of course rely on electronic interrogation alone.

As with all complex technical systems, modern technology is constantly offering opportunities for improvement, and we are now discussing with our Nato allies the specifications for a new system for all three Services of the alliance, which will give worthwhile improvements in accuracy and reliability while remaining one step ahead of the enemy's capability to jam or deceive it."

Railmen seek talks over train cancellations

By Christopher Thomas

The National Union of Railwaymen (NUR), has asked for talks with British Rail about the increasing numbers of trains being cancelled, particularly in London and the South-east, because of staff shortages.

The south-eastern division of Southern Region, which is mostly in Kent, and the Liverpool Street division of Eastern Region, which principally covers Essex and parts of Hertfordshire are worst affected.

On a typical day last week 45 trains were cancelled in Southern Region's south-east division because of a shortage of guards and 32 more because of a driver shortage. On the same day, Thursday, eight trains were cancelled in the Liverpool Street division because of a shortage of drivers and 16 because of a shortage of guards.

British Rail has thousands of vacancies, mainly for guards and signallers. Guards are difficult to recruit because of chaotic shift patterns based on train timetables. Basic pay is £33.90, plus unsocial hours payments, mileage allowances and overtime.

The average working week for a guard last month, for example, was just over 51 hours, giving a gross wage of £80.03. A guard needs several weeks training on basic pay before he gets overtime opportunities. The union opposes overtime working, because it says it reduces the number of jobs. The policy is always put forward with the membership, as demonstrated last month by London Transport staff who disrupted services when the management cut overtime and rest-day working in an economy drive.

The average overtime worked on the railways is 13.5 hours a week at rates of up to time-and-a-half.

three-quarters. All Sunday duty is at overtime rates. There are indications that the rapid and deliberate staff reductions in recent years have stopped this year because the unions have been more insistent about filling vacancies.

In 1976 and 1977 the industry lost 12,000 workers. The total of British Rail staff, including those in hotels, catering, ferry and other services, has fallen from 600,000 in the mid-1950s to 235,000.

British Rail has 9,000 vacancies but some are temporary vacancies caused by promotion and those that do not need to be filled because the nature of the work has changed.

The shortages are tackled locally through posters and the classified columns of newspapers. British Rail said yesterday, however, that it had a national advertising campaign because the problems relate to particular jobs and particular parts of the country.

In its talks with the management, however, the NUR will be seeking a savings programme to be implemented by the railway unions say they have cooperated in reducing manpower.

The results of two important railway inquiries are expected soon, possibly later this month. Both were headed by Lord McCarty, chairman of the Railway Staff National Tribunal, the top conciliation body in the industry. One covers the train drivers' claim for productivity payments after the granting of extra commission payments to pay for overtime.

The other concerns the refusal of the drivers to accept a British Rail proposal to establish a business performance index, which amounts to a productivity payment. It is possible that the findings of the inquiries, which to some extent overlap, will be presented in one report.

Helicopter saves boys from sea

Andrew Blackburn, aged 12, and his brother, Paul, aged seven, were rescued by a Royal Navy helicopter yesterday when their plastic dinghy was swept out to sea off Lyme, Cornwall.

"We got there in the nick of time," a spokesman at the Royal Naval Air Station, Culdroe, said after the boys, frightened but unhurt, were landed on the beach.

Cards for rail complaints

Rail passengers will find it much easier to complain when British Rail installs dispensers with pre-addressed complaint cards on stations in the Bristol area from October 2.

The experimental scheme, suggested by the Central Transport Consultative Committee, will run for three months, and each complainant will be replied to in writing if needed.

Changes suggested after violence at girls' school

Changes in the running of a Gloucestershire school for girls were recommended yesterday by a committee of investigation which looked into a violent incident there in May.

The incident happened at the Longford special school at Minchinhampton, near Stroud, when staff and pupils were involved in a fight on stairs.

It came to light when Mr Tony Williams, area officer of the National Union of Public Employees, called for an independent inquiry by the Department of Health and Social Security. He complained that his union members working at the school were being injured. Yesterday the four-man committee of investigation, chaired by Councillor Kenneth Wilson, a Cotswold magistrate, said that staffing grades at the school were too low. More senior social workers were recommended, and guidance should be given to staff on methods of restraining girls

Woman has her marriage put on trial by judge

From Our Correspondent York

Judge Hurwitz at York Crown Court yesterday put a couple's marriage on trial for six months, saying it was the only way to save Mrs Bernadette Small from a long prison sentence.

She admitted setting fire to their council house in Pottery Lane, York, with intent to endanger the life of her husband, Robert.

The judge, freeing her for six months after she had spent the last six weeks in custody awaiting trial, said he would decide sentence in the light of what happened in the meantime.

Mrs Small, aged 54, in a statement, said: "I was trying to set fire to the house because I wanted to watch him burn. I wanted to kill him."

Pillow forced down man's throat, prosecution say

Mr George Fairbridge, a sub-postmaster, died from suffocation after two raiders bound and gagged him, a jury at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, was told yesterday.

He had a pillow forced "right down his throat," Mr David Tudor Price, for the prosecution, said.

The robbery was carried out after the two men had received information from a Post Office worker who had trained Mr Fairbridge to run his shop in Posters Road, New Barnet, London, the jury was told.

George Fairbridge, aged 35, a builder of Hertford Road, Edmonton, London, and Robert Bamforth, aged 31, a hairdresser, of Trapsley Road, Ware, Hertfordshire, both denied murdering Mr Fairbridge, aged 62, July 4 last year. Mr Bamforth denied a second charge of robbing Mr Fairbridge of more than £7,000 in cash and other valuables on the same date.

Pit strike ends as seven are reemployed

Agreement was reached yesterday to end a strike that began when seven miners were dismissed. The National Coal Board said the seven were dismissed for persistently leaving work early and ignoring official warnings. They will be reemployed, but not in their previous jobs.

The 1,400 miners at Dodworth colliery, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, walked out in protest two weeks ago and 2,600 miners at three other pits struck yesterday.

The 4,000 men who were on strike began to go back on the night of last night. The dispute has cost about £300,000 in lost production.

The agreement was reached at a meeting with coal board officials arranged by Mr Arthur Scargill, the Yorkshire miners' resident. Mr Scargill had earlier given warning that the dispute was reaching an "angry" stage.

1968 Viva sold for £2,000

A 1968 Vauxhall Viva, saloon, bought for £960, was sold for £2,000 by British Car Auctions yesterday. It had belonged to Mrs Mabel Swyers, aged 75, of Bromley, London, who had coded it through cold winters, wrapping it in blankets in the garage and used an electric fire each night.

She charged its battery once a week and polished it regularly. It had travelled only 325 miles and its longest journey was five miles.

Soon after Mrs Swyers bought it she became incapacitated by arthritis and had not been able to drive for more than 10 minutes at a time.

The car was bought by Mr Henry Factor, of Gordon White & Co., Governors Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Porters support ambulance strike

Porters at four big hospitals in Great Britain are to introduce sanctions in support of 170 ambulance men who are on strike over manning levels and overtime payments.

Mr Stuart Barber, National Union of Public Employees area officer, said the porters would adopt a policy of non-cooperation over the admission of all patients except "dire emergencies."

Red Rum for TV

Red Rum, winner of three Grand Nationals, has been written into an episode of a Yorkshire Television thriller series.

27 daily short sea crossings to France

From the two ports of Dover and Folkestone to the three ports of Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk West Sealink services add up to a very impressive 27 ro-ro crossings every day, each way.

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Club name 'hooligan' program Five nations agree on closer cooperation fighting terrorism

Vienna, Sept. 11.—Government ministers from five Western European countries, ending a meeting in Vienna, said today they had "exceedingly fruitful talks on combating terrorism."

The Austrian, French, West German, Italian and Swiss ministers met until after midnight to coordinate tactics against urban guerrillas and other terrorist groups. It was the second such meeting this year.

Austrian officials reported close cooperation between security forces of the five countries in tracking down urban guerrillas who have established links through Western Europe.

A spokesman for Herr Erwin Schmid, the Austrian Interior Minister, said anti-terrorist efforts were working closely without and difficulties.

He said the meeting was a "step-up of the cooperation in the fight against terrorism reaching across the borders of these countries."

The authorities said the five countries were working together because West Germany and Italy were seriously affected by terrorism, and Austria, France and Switzerland had been used by terrorists as transit routes.

West Germany's Red Army Group has worked closely with Red Brigades guerrillas in Italy in the past two years, and foreign terrorists have been arrested by police in Austria, France and Switzerland.

M. Christian Bonnet, flew back to Paris soon after the meeting ended at 12.30 am. Mr. Kurt Furgler, the Swiss Justice Minister, Sigmund Vigorini Rogoni, the Italian Interior Minister, and Herr Gerhart Baum, the West German Interior Minister, left this morning—Reuters and AP.

Against hijackers: A British minister appealed yesterday to "those few countries" still willing to harbour aircraft hijackers to think again. "The blood on the hands of these international gangsters also stains the hands of those who harbour them, who aid and abet their vile crimes," Mr. Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Trade, told a meeting of the Commonwealth Air Transport Council in London.

Mr. Clinton Davis said it was important for potential hijackers to be fearful that they could not find a safe haven after their hijack was over.

The international convention signed at The Hague provided that hijackers should either be prosecuted where they arrived or be extradited.

Portugal's left rejects da Costa programme

From Our Correspondent Lisbon, Sept. 11

The future of Senhor Nobre da Costa's technocrat Government looked bleak today as the Communist and Socialist Parties both tabled parliamentary motions rejecting his programme.

Unless Parliament endorses the programme in the four-day debate starting today, President Eanes must nominate another prime minister to form a government.

It was not until last night that Senhor Alvaro Cunhal, the Communist leader, announced his party's active opposition. Hitherto it had been understood that the Communists would not propose such a motion, and would abstain from voting on that of any other party.

Hard on the heels of the Communist announcement the Socialists announced that they too would propose a motion of rejection.

It was not yet clear if the Socialists will press their motion to the point of bringing down the da Costa Government.

The Christian Democrats (CDS) have tabled a similar motion rejecting the programme. But the Social Democrats (PSD) have declared that they will not put obstacles in the way of the Government, which they consider to be provisional.

The Popular Democratic Union, which is represented in Parliament by one deputy, will vote for the Communist and Socialist motions.



Syrian visitor: President Scheel of West Germany (right) greets President Assad of Syria in Bonn on his arrival for a five-day state visit.

French accuse British captain of causing oil slick

Cherbourg, Sept. 11.—French maritime authorities formally charged the captain of the British bulk carrier August Pacific today with illegally cleaning the holds off the Brittany coast and causing an oil slick four miles long.

Authorities said the incident occurred on yesterday off Portshall where the Amoco Cadiz ran aground in March.

They claimed that they had established beyond any doubt that the 31,409-ton vessel emptied its holds within French territorial waters.

It appears that now the charge has been served the August Pacific will be allowed to leave for its original destination.

The British vessel was stopped last night and ordered to anchor nine miles off the bay of Saint Vaz La Hougue, where it was escorted by the coastal patrol vessel L'Alerte after it refused to do so.

Yesterday morning, officials alleged, a French coastguard patrol aircraft spotted the 660ft August Pacific emptying its holds of excess oil mixed with water off Portshall, near Ushant.

As soon as the August Pacific was spotted the coastguard sent its dredger Baccarat to order it to stop. It did not and continued northward, the official declared.

The Cherbourg maritime prefecture was informed and it sent out L'Alerte.—UPI.

Visa hitch stops Dutch MPs' visit to Russia

From Our Correspondent Amsterdam, Sept. 11

A Dutch parliamentary delegation called off a trip to the Soviet Union at the last moment this weekend when one of its members did not receive his visa in time because of "administrative reasons."

The four-man delegation was to have left for Moscow and Leningrad on Saturday at the invitation of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation.

The member who did not receive a visa was Mr. J. L. Gualtherie van Wezel, a Christian Democrat who is known for his activities in support of Russian dissidents.

Kremlin flirtation full of promise for Greeks

From Mario Modiano Athens, Sept. 11

The Soviet Union and Greece, after a first and quite promising official contact at high level, jointly pledged today to pursue present efforts to broaden their relations and develop cooperation in all fields.

The pledge was included in the communiqué issued last night at the close of an official visit to the Soviet Union by Mr. George Rallis, the Greek Foreign Minister. This is the first such visit by a Greek Foreign Minister since the establishment of the Soviet Union and marks a turning point in the pattern of Greece's foreign relations.

It could be described as a success, not so much because the Russians steered clear of the dilemmas that the Greek-Turkish conflict always poses to third countries, but because the Kremlin leaders, displaying an uncanny familiarity with Greek sensibilities, extended a flatteringly early invitation to Mr. Constantine Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, to visit the Soviet Union.

Sucklers as they are for diplomatic protocol, the Soviet leaders had not been expected to extend the invitation until Mr. Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, came to Athens later this year or early in 1979.

There were other gestures. For the last two years, the stumbling block for the signing of a cultural agreement was the Greek insistence that these cultural exchanges should be under the supervision of the state authorities. This was to deprive the Russians of using left-wing mayors or organizations in Greece to channel propaganda.

The Soviet side gave in on this during the Moscow talks, although at Soviet request it will be dealt with in an exchange of letters so as not to create a precedent.

Finally, the economic projects discussed in Moscow show promise. It appears that the Greek side, impressed by the help the Soviet Union is giving to Turkey's industrial development, is seriously considering joint deals such as for the production of alumina or the establishment of a nuclear power plant. An agreement for economic and technical cooperation is to be negotiated.

This first diplomatic flirtation, however, yielded for the Greeks none of the outspoken reassurances about the Aegean or Cyprus that might upset Turkey.

On Cyprus the communiqué underlined the "urgency of an early solution" based on the island's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-alignment, as well as the relevant United Nations resolutions.

There was no reference to the Aegean, but the Greek side seemed to infer Soviet support for its views in a passage underlining their agreement "that disputes on questions of the law of the sea should be settled by peaceful means on the basis of generally accepted principles of international law and international practice, with due respect to the legitimate rights of all states."

Socialist wins run-off poll in Pas-de-Calais

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, Sept. 11

In the second round of the election of the fourth constituency in the Pas-de-Calais yesterday M. Claude Wilquin, a Socialist Candidate, won by 59.94 per cent of the vote.

His opponent, Leonora Derviz, the Republican Party candidate, gained 40.05 per cent of the vote.

M. Wilquin's success, although unexpected, turned out even stronger than foreseen. In the first elections the Majority candidate failed to win by only 2 votes, while yesterday M. Wilquin's seat his opponent by 1,631 votes.

Yet it was in this constituency that in the 1974 presidential elections M. Giscard d'Estaing won 52.34 per cent of the vote against M. François Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate, and for this by-election, three ministers of M. Giscard d'Estaing's Government—M. René Monory, M. Joël Le Theule and M. Jacques Legendre—visited the constituency to give support to the Majority candidate.

After the first round a week ago, it was obvious that the Socialist candidate would win the seat, although his election last March was annulled by the Constitutional Council.

Already a week ago M. Wilquin benefited from former Communist supporters, while his opponent failed to draw many of the Gaullists to vote for him.

As Le Figaro pointed out this morning, at this constituency "the relations between the Socialists and Communists were not too bad, while the relations between the Gaullists and the Republican Party were not too good."

Bonn minister to our cities in East Germany

Bonn, Sept. 11

Herr Dieter Haack, the West German Minister for Building, arrived in East Berlin today to meet his East German counterparts.

He is the first West German Minister to come to East Germany for official talks. He is to visit several East German cities and the new district signed to accommodate 7,000 people in East Berlin.

Party agrees to Brandt deal on Europe elections

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn, Sept. 11

Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, said today he was prepared to stand as a Social Democrat candidate for the European Parliament.

The party executive has agreed to his conditions—that a sizeable number of women and trade unionists should be nominated high enough in the party's lists to have a good chance of election.

UN draft of new rules for handling detained people

From Alan McGregor Geneva, Sept. 11

A new set of principles intended to serve as a universal standard for correct treatment of detained persons, has been approved by the 26-member United Nations sub-commission on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities.

In submitting the draft after revision by a legal working group, its main author, Herr R. M. N. de Vries, of Austria, expressed the hope that it will be used out of which at some time a legal instrument will grow.

Representatives of Amnesty International, the International Commission of Jurists and the International Federation of Human Rights took part in a group's work.

The draft, comprising 35 principles, will go forward to the United Nations General Assembly. It initially will be a declaration implementing the convention against torture now being evolved under United Nations auspices.

Its provisions, reflecting the development of international law in the human rights field, were elaborated on the basis of existing instruments, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Together, they amount to a standard attained so far by few countries. One provision is: "The authorities responsible for arresting the suspect and keeping him in detention shall as far as possible be distinct from those entrusted with investigation of the case."

Another is "Simple, expeditious proceedings at no cost shall be provided whereby a detained person, his counsel or his family may challenge the lawfulness or necessity of his detention and obtain his release without delay if it is unlawful."

Control queues

Brussels, Sept. 11.—Long queues of motorists formed at petrol stations here today as heavy workers joined tanker drivers in nationwide strike protests at the closure of an oil refinery belonging to American company Occidental Petroleum.

PARLIAMENT, Sept. 11, 1978 Cooperation within EEC over firearms controls

European Parliament Strasbourg

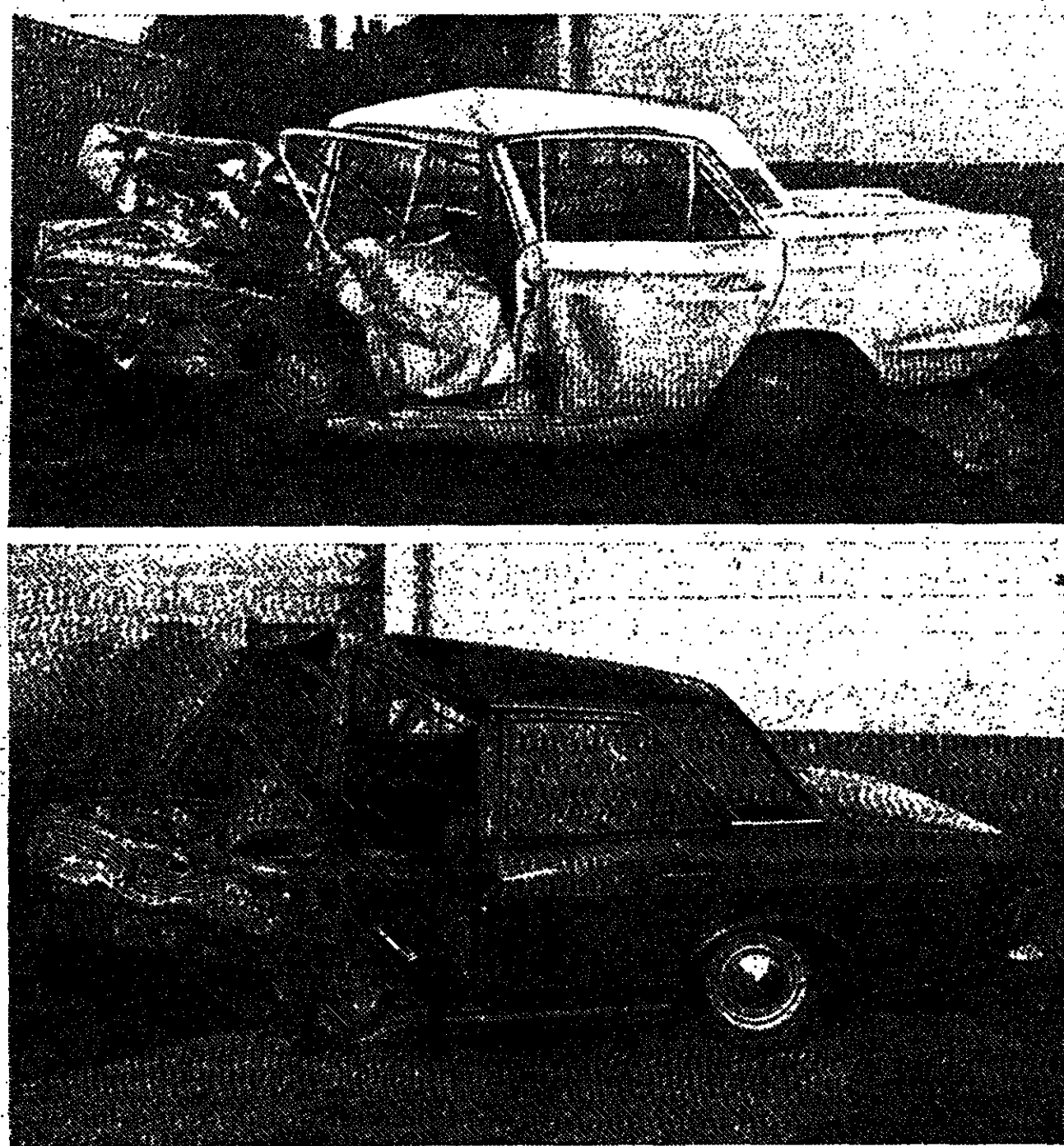
It would be wrong for firearms controls to concern only on terrorism and not on other criminal activity, Viscount Eubene Vigoda, Commissioner for Industry, said.

He was answering Herr Hellmut K. who had asked whether the commission felt that the European convention on control and acquisition of firearms by individuals could be signed and ratified sooner.

Sieglewisch said firearms for acts of violence within the Community had often been illegally imported from other member states. Strict harmonization of controls inside the EEC was required.

Viscount Davidson said the initiative for the time being had been taken by member states cooperating with each other and not basing themselves on EEC ties. Agreements had already been signed by Britain, West Germany, Ireland and Denmark.

This cooperation should have priority for the time being. There would be legal complications in any EEC action. The parliament will vote on the matter tomorrow.



The driver of one of these cars was slightly injured.

The driver of the other car was killed.

The cars were involved in a head-on collision with each other; they were virtually identical cars and they sustained very similar external damage.

The driver of the white car was wearing a seat belt and escaped with minor injuries.

The driver who was killed was not wearing a seat belt. And if you take a look at the interior photographs of the two cars, you can see the force of the impact where the driver without a seat belt was thrown forward against the wheel and steering column.

This was not a simulated crash. It actually happened on the A4 just outside Newbury. It happens all the time. Last year, it was estimated that 12,000 people were needlessly killed or seriously injured because they chose not to wear a seat belt.

If you don't wear a seat belt, you double your risk.

Wearing a seat belt reduces the risk of being killed or seriously injured by about half. This is not a theory. This is a figure produced from a meticulous study of road accidents in the U.K.

It is based, not just on statistics, but on painstaking analysis of the exact injuries of hospital patients, and of post-mortem examinations. And it is a figure which is supported by

the experience of many other countries round the world.

By not wearing a seat belt, you are deliberately doubling your risk of being killed or seriously injured.

Why don't more people wear seat belts?

More people wear seat belts today than they did, say, six years ago—but still only one in five regularly wears a belt. Why don't the others?

Well, there are a great many highly ingenious excuses. Doctors in hospital casualty departments have heard them all.

Some people fear being trapped in the event of the car catching fire. But fire is present in only an infinitesimal number of accidents—in fact only about 0.5% of serious casualties occur in such accidents.

And if you are involved in such an accident, and you're not wearing a belt, there is a very high risk of you being knocked unconscious. In that event, you certainly would not be able to free yourself. But that's only one of a familiar catalogue of excuses, none of which stands up to the facts.

The short journey fallacy.

By far the most common reason for not wearing a seat belt is the widely-held attitude that belts are unnecessary for short journeys round town.

CLUNK-CLICK

If you don't wear a seat belt, you double your risk.

OVERSEAS

Martial law declared in Nicaragua as rebels renew attacks

Managua, Sept. 11.—Nicaraguan rebels fought a heavy battle with President Anastasio Somoza's troops in the city centre of Managua today and refugees said "dozens of people" were killed.

An attack by rebels on the National Guard command post at the Masaya Plaza about 10 am started the latest round of fighting. A helicopter gunship strafed the streets and buildings as 10 lorries of Guardia Nacional drove into the city from Managua, the capital, to reinforce the garrison.

President Somoza today declared martial law in the whole country by decree, where the rebels of the Sandinista National Liberation Front have launched their latest offensive aimed at overthrowing his regime.

The National Guard, together with the 7,500-man army and police force, claimed yesterday that they were "maintaining control and order in the whole country". But the Red Cross said there was heavy gunfire in two sections of the capital and in the cities of Esteli and Leon as well as in Masaya.

A Red Cross spokesman described the cities of Esteli and Masaya as in "a bloody situation". But since telephone lines between the capital and the cities were cut, it was not possible to verify reports of continued fighting.

The Red Cross spokesman and other authorities said 36 persons had been killed since the fighting began late on Saturday and the wounded numbered more than 100. But one Red



Nkomo warning against Air Rhodesia travel

Continued from page 1

Throughout the news conference, Mr Nkomo emphasized that he was speaking as president of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu) and not for the Patriotic Front. The distinction again points the lack of unity and coordination with Mr Mugabe, head of the Zanu (Zimbabwe African National Union) wing of the organization.

Zanu officials remain unconvinced that Mr Nkomo was not trying to reach a secret agreement with Mr Smith to take power alone.

The guerrilla leader again denied Rhodesian claims that his forces were responsible for the massacre of survivors of last week's air crash, but gave warning that Air Rhodesia had become a military target.

"Keep clear of those planes because we will not know when they are carrying military personnel and equipment and when they carry some passengers", he said, emphasizing his men did not want to kill innocent civilians.

"We are not savages, we do not do that type of thing. If our men were around (at the crash site), the only thing they would have done would be to assist the survivors", he said, his high blood shaking with rage.

Mr Nkomo scoffed at yesterday's announcement by Mr Smith that he would impose a modified form of martial law.

Smith plan serves only to upset all Rhodesians

From Nicholas Ashford Salisbury, Sept. 11

If Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, achieved anything with his lacklustre address to the nation last night, in which he announced plans to introduce a modified form of martial law and to "liquidate" internal organizations associated with the Patriotic Front, it has been to unite Rhodesians of almost all political viewpoints in condemnation of his speech.

From the right to the left, black and white, he has been criticized for failing to take appropriate action in the wake of the shooting down of the Air Rhodesia Viscount. Many whites have been deeply disappointed at his failure to take direct reprisals against the Patriotic Front guerrillas. His vague declaration of martial law, about which no details have been made public, seems to have convinced no one that he was taking the appropriate military action.

Many blacks and their liberal white sympathizers, however, have been dismayed by his announced intention to clamp down on the internal wing of the Zimbabwe Africa People's Union (Zapu) although so far no indication has been given as to exactly what steps will be taken against the party and its Patriotic Front associate, the People's Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu).

The middle-of-the-road Herald newspaper probably summed up reactions today when it described Mr Smith's address as a "damp squib".

After the big build-up of the past few days, it said, the speech was too full of generalities and contained too little of the "positive and firm course" that the Government was supposed to be planning.

What Mr Smith's performance last night has perhaps brought home to all Rhodesians, especially whites, is the lack of options now open to the Prime Minister. The shortcomings of the interim Government and the absence of a ceasefire, have forced him into a corner.

He could have declared full martial law or a general mobilization, but this would have had a devastating effect on an already crippled economy without yielding much in return. A serious raid into kamba would have helped raise white morale, now at its lowest point since UDI, but this would not have stopped the war. It would, on the other hand, have alienated South Africa, Rhodesia's only reliable ally.

Leading article, page 15

Teheran spring turns to winter as clampdown alienates middle class

Shah's concessions fail to reach fruition

By David Wans

With the imposition of martial law and the arrest of significant moderates in the opposition, the Shah of Iran seems about to achieve what his opponents' best endeavours have failed to do—unifying all opposition elements.

That the Shah's liberalization policy did not extend to peaceful demonstrators mocking his regime came as a surprise to few, but his stringent methods of dealing with the dissenters seem largely to negate the considerable concessions—according to his somewhat narrow view—that he has made over the last few weeks.

Though the Shah consistently makes the Prime Minister of the day pay for any failure of his imperial policies, the resignation of the Amouzgar Government did serve to remove a leader unpopular with the mass of the people, valued, so the conservatives believe, with Westerners. This was just the first of a string of weighty changes that might a few times have won for the Shah the breathing space he believes he needs.

The return to the Islamic calendar and the closure of the casinos, at considerable financial

degriment to the Government, have been followed by the installation of the Government of Mr Jafar Sharif-Emami, the product of a highly religious Shia family who at least declares himself a believer in the pacific resolution of national problems.

Resigning as Prime Minister, after a brief tenure in 1961, over the death of a single protester he said he "did not want to rule in bloodshed".

The decision to negotiate with Ayatollah el Sayyed Rouhallah el Khomeini in Iraq, the Shah's bete noire who has been behind the Muslim unrest in Iran, was a bold move that could have transformed the situation for the Shah if the ayatollah had been persuaded to return to Iran on acceptable terms.

But doubtless the ayatollah recognized that, even if the Shah's overtures were not a ruse, his avowed to the opposition remained much greater outside the country, and his return could well have provoked serious friction in the internal Muslim leadership.

Complaints of corruption in business and high places had been at least symbolically met by the regime with the arrest

of one of those most publicly alleged to have traduced traditional values, Mr Hajjeb Yazdani, who headed a big Iranian bank. His arrest, however, was an unrelated charge.

Despite the beating of insults on the Pahlavi dynasty it would have seemed advisable to allow the protests to lose momentum and give time for what the Shah saw as his concessions to bear fruit.

But the British tanks and American rifles now being used to enforce the Shah's rule on the streets have ensured that the optimism of the Teheran spring has moved quickly through summer to a bleak winter which, for the moment, has no visible end.

The Shah's clampdown has not only hit the Muslim fanatics but embraced a sizable proportion of the middle classes, the very people that the Shah, normally skilled at co-opting the opposition, should be winning to his side.

Typical of these is Mr Hedayat Maragheh-Daftary, a lawyer who was among those arrested last week. In an interview with The Times last spring, soon after his house had been bombed by agents of

Chamoun emphasis on ousting Syrians

From Robert Fisk Beirut, Sept. 11

Mr Camille Chamoun as the former President of Lebanon and—more to the point—leader of the country's high wing, National Liberal Front, ought perhaps to be a very worried man. His green-uniformed army has been fighting Syrian troops since July an President Chamoun in public dubbed him traitor for "collaborating" with Israel.

But Mr Chamoun seems to be turning the tables in a few days' time when the Lebanese Government of President Sarkis asks for an extension of the Arab League mandate to keep 30,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon. "They will not renew the mandate," he says. "If they do, they (the Government) will be traitors."

"I know that when the government becomes traitors to the nation, anything can be done against them." The statement warning is both obvious and frightening. If Mr Chamoun's Maronite supporters along with the Phalangist Party withdraw their support and recognition from the Lebanese Government, President Sarkis may be forced to resign and Syria will be left a soldier on in Lebanon without the formal—and legally, essential—permission of a Lebanese president.

Two blocks away from Mr Chamoun's office, two elderly Lebanese are sweeping piles of glass from the road. A few feet away from them, there is a 6ft hole in the pavement where an overnight Syrian shell exploded. Youth of 1 and 16 stand at the road intersections carrying rocks, launchers, with the national emblem of the cedar tree stitched on their denims.

"Drive quickly at the next junction," they tell you, and you accelerate across the road you catch just a glimpse of the white-painted Rizk Tower, the unfinished high-rise office building to the east, with its sandbagged offices bulging to the east, with its sandbagged emplacements on the top. The Syrians are in there although the streets up to the building are deserted.

In a sense, the daily fighting here is essential to the Maronite belief that they are struggling for Lebanon's national integrity. When the Syrians open fire on the Lebanese Christian enclave of east Beirut, it is held up as proof that the Syrians, far from being peacekeepers, are repressing Lebanon's freedom.

"It is absolutely wrong to say that we are fighting because we are Christians."

"It happens that those who are fighting for the freedom of Lebanon are the Christians. The others are perhaps weak or do not have the courage to fight. But it is not because of the Christian faith, it is because we want to defend our freedom and our dignity."

The former President will not reply to questions about Israeli military assistance to the Christians in Lebanon. When the question does come up, Mr Chamoun does avoid the subject, although he knows you know what he means.

"God is great," he says, "and he will provide us with ways and means to get the material aid and the equipment we need."

The Syrians had saved Christians from defeat at the hands of the Palestinians and Lebanese leftists during the civil war; would there not be another civil war if the Syrians were to leave, as Mr Chamoun wants them to?

"I can guarantee you that there will be no civil war in Lebanon if the Syrians leave. There will be no less enemy, first of all. Secondly, there will be nobody to start intrigues for a war."

(The Palestinians do not want war. The Lebanese do not want war among themselves in Lebanon. We are ready to deal with all our differences and to find ways and means to live in peace together as we have done for 50 years. It is black mail—Syrian blackmail—what they say that if they leave there will be civil war in five minutes. That's blackmail.")

Mr Chamoun does not look like the right-wing fanatic his enemies talk about. You might think he was an elderly businessman greeting old friends. But his mind is as sharp as ever. And the gunmen with rocket-grenades strapped to the waist who wave you through the Ashrafie roadblock after the interview prove his means business.

Already there are rumours that the Lebanese Cabinet is divided over how it can ask for a renewal of the Syrian mandate in Lebanon. This afternoon, the Chamounists announced another demonstration against the Syrians: general strike to take place in two days' time.



Home posting: Service in the Royal Green Jackers has provided Rifleman Tony Lee with a chance he would never otherwise have had to see his home and friends in Hongkong again. Rifleman Lee, seen here with his great aunt Cheng Kwa Mai on Tap Mun Island, left the isolated fishing community with his family when he was 14 to join his father in Liverpool. In 1975 he joined the Army and by one of those odd service coincidences was this year posted home.

Dr Castro on Ethiopia visit today

Nairobi, Sept. 10.—President Fidel Castro, Cuba's government maintains an estimated 30,000 combat troops in Africa, is flying to Ethiopia on his first trip to Africa for more than a year, Addis Ababa radio said today.

The broadcast, monitored here, said President Castro would arrive in the Ethiopian capital tomorrow to take part in the Marxist Government's celebrations to mark the fourth anniversary of the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie.

Mr Robert Mugabe, a co-leader of the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance in Rhodesia, had arrived in Ethiopia to take part in the celebrations.

Mr Mugabe's forces have received extensive training from Cuban advisers, and there was speculation that President Castro and Mr Mugabe would take advantage of their meeting to discuss the war in Rhodesia.

The radio also reported that Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of Ethiopia's ruling Dergue, met Mr Vasily Kuznetsov, the Soviet Vice President today.

UPI

South African policemen on trial for torture

Bloemfontein, Sept. 11.—A group of South African policemen suspended six naked black prisoners by chains from a ceiling and subjected them to beatings and electric shock treatment, Mr A. R. Erasmus, the state prosecutor, said today.

He made the allegation at the opening of the trial of two white and four black detectives and two white civilians on murder and assault charges. All pleaded not guilty as did a third white detective charged with assault.

Eight days after the alleged beatings one of the prisoners died in hospital.

Mr Erasmus submitted to the court a written statement that said the six blacks were arrested early on March 17 after a burglary at a farm near the Orange Free State town of Welkom.

"They were hanged naked by their wrists", the statement said. "As they hung, they were hit."

Mr Erasmus said wires were then applied to their bodies for electric shocks. "These assaults took place, at pauses, until midnight," he said.

Mr Erasmus said the accused took turns in carrying out the assaults. During this time, rags were placed over the faces of the blacks.—Reuter.

New evidence of fourth shot fired at President Kennedy

From David Cross Washington, Sept. 11

Congressional hearings into the assassination of President Kennedy 15 years ago took a dramatic turn here today with scientific evidence that a fourth shot may well have been fired at him as well as the three established during earlier investigations.

The new evidence was based on an acoustic analysis of a tape-recording of the attack made inadvertently in Dallas, Texas, on November 22, 1963, when a police officer left his radio transmitter on at the time of the shooting.

Research into the tape as well as into recent recordings of a reenactment of the shooting on the spot where President Kennedy died, strongly suggested the presence of a fourth shot, scientific experts told today's hearing of the assassinations committee of the House of Representatives.

The acoustic evidence also implied that the time lapse between the firing of the first four shots was too short for them to have come from the same weapon. If this were the case, it would suggest that Lee Harvey Oswald, the suspected killer of the late president, was not the lone assassin he is generally supposed to be.

However, at the opening of this week's hearings, Mr Louis Stokes, chairman of the investigating committee, gave a warning against premature conclusions about today's disclosures. The committee, which is holding hearings until September 28, has made it clear that final judgments on the evidence will be possible only when all its findings are made public.

The acoustic evidence produced today is the first evidence during the present hearings to challenge the principal findings of the Warren Commission which investigated the assassination in the mid-1960s.

In its final report, the commission said it believed that only three shots had been fired. This was based on the discovery of three spent cartridges in the building where Lee Harvey Oswald is believed to have stationed himself for the shooting.

By critics of the commission's findings believe that at least four shots were fired at the president and not necessarily all of them from the building pinpointed by the official version of events as the source of the shots.

Democrats clash in 15 primaries

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Sept. 11

Fourteen states and the District of Columbia are holding primary elections tomorrow and as usual the most diverting spectacle is provided by Democrats fighting each other. The amount of damage they do to their rivals ought to give a good hint of the Republicans' chances of beating them in the general elections in November.

The big news is the New York primary, where Governor Hugh Carey is desperately trying to fight off a challenge from two of his closest political associates. In Minnesota, the Democratic-Farmer-Labour Party is fighting for survival and there are some fine knock-about battles under way in Florida and Connecticut.

Governor Carey won the election in 1974 by a huge margin over Mr Nelson Rockefeller's chosen successor. He was on everyone's list of possible Democratic vice-presidential candidates in 1976 and was even mentioned as a potential President. All that has faded now and although he will probably win his primary, he is going to have serious trouble with the Republican candidate, Mr Philip Duvree, in November.

His chief challenger tomorrow is his Lieutenant-Governor, Miss Mary Ann Karp-

sak. Mr Carey carries the heavy guns and her candidacy is certainly hampered by the newspaper strike, but her attacks on the Governor are all gaily to the Republicans' mill.

The most interesting of the four primaries for elections to the House of Representatives in New York is in a largely black district. Brooding Republican Representative Frederick Richmond is white and very rich, has done wonders for the district in his first term, and was in Washington a few months ago for soliciting a black youth.

His rival is a notable young black educator and the conventional wisdom would normally have decreed that Mr Richmond had no chance. However, things have apparently changed. The case against him was dropped because he was a first offender, and agreed to go to a psychiatrist.

The Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of Connecticut are fighting for the Democratic nomination. As in New York, the Governor's chances are rated good—but in Connecticut the Governor, Miss Ella Grasso, is a woman and the Lieutenant-Governor, Mr Robert Kilian, is a man.

The Republicans stand much less chance of beating her than they do of beating Mr Carey.

They have high hopes elsewhere, however, most remarkably in the once-solidly Democratic state of Minnesota.

That state has been dominated since 1946 by a coalition put together by Mr Hubert Humphrey, the Democratic-Farmer-Labour Party.

When Mr Mondale left his Senate seat to become Vice-President in 1977, the Governor, Mr Wendell Anderson, had himself appointed to the Senate. That proved a serious mistake, and even if he wins his primary, he will face a strong challenge from a prominent Republican in November.

The other Minnesota Senate seat is also up for election to fill the four years left to Humphrey's term. His widow was appointed to succeed him but is not running for election.

Even the Governor of Minnesota, Mr Rudy Perpich, although he does not have to face a primary tomorrow, is in grave danger in November. He was Lieutenant-Governor when Mr Anderson resigned and appointed his patron to the Senate. He thus suffers from the same ill-fate that is afflicting Senator Anderson.

The Republicans thus have high hopes of carrying both Senate seats and the governorship.

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Chamoun emphasizes on custody of Syrians

From Peter Hazelhurst
Manila, Sept 11

Mr. Richard Wigg
hi, Sept 11

Mrs. Gandhi has found another theme to go campaigning with against the Government—northern states' flood disaster.

After flying over the two northern states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh today, she said that the Government's machinery "discriminates between the rich and poor."

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Patna had survived, it was said, because of the protective embankments built during Congress rule. Mrs. Gandhi said that the Government's machinery "discriminates between the rich and poor."

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Refugees leave their homes in Benares, the Hindu holy city, as the floods worsen.

of Allahabad and Varanasi, formerly Benares—were inundated last week.

Malaria and stomach diseases were rife around Allahabad and medical officers were working round the clock to prevent an outbreak of cholera.

The situation was bad in the Ballia district of eastern Uttar Pradesh, where nearly 1,500 villages have been flooded and at least 22 people have died.

Total damage to crops and dwellings in the flood-ravaged areas of northern India is still to be estimated. But officials said it appeared that losses in West Bengal would amount to 1,120m rupees (about £70m), and in Delhi to 150m rupees (about £9.5m).—Reuters.

Burmese dam bursts: Three days of incessant rain since last Thursday on the Shan mountain ranges east of Kya-ukse caused a breach on Sauc-daw in a 95ft section of the Thindwe Dam on the Zawgyi

river (our Rangoon Correspondent writes). This disrupted the water supply to 11,000 acres of paddy fields in that area.

The Zawgyi and Panlaung rivers in Mandalay have been in spate since the end of last month. Flooding the Eastern Mandalay road for days. Mandalay on August 29 recorded more than 6in of rain.

Last week, floods around Moulmein damaged hundreds of thousands of acres under paddy.

Mekong damage: Rains have submerged tens of thousands of acres of paddy in the Mekong river delta and hundreds of thousands of flood victims have been evacuated to safe areas according to a Vietnamese news agency report received in Hongkong. In some places the Mekong is 12ft above average level.—Agence France-Press.

Afghanistan aid: The United Nations World Food Programme in Rome announced food aid worth about £1.25m for victims of extensive flooding in Afghanistan.—Reuters.

Marcos amnesty of no benefit yet to rival

From Peter Hazelhurst
Manila, Sept 11

The Philippine opposition leader, Mr. Benigno Aquino, remained incarcerated in a Manila army camp today while 444 other prisoners, including six would-be assassins, were released under an amnesty to mark the sixty-first birthday of President Marcos.

Mr. Aquino, President Marcos's chief political rival who has been detained since martial law was proclaimed six years ago, had been given some hope that he would be released today. "But we were disappointed again. I suppose it was to be expected," his wife, Mrs. Cory Aquino, told me.

Last November a military court sentenced the 45-year-old opposition leader to death on charges of murder and the illegal possession of arms. Reacting to protests from the United States, President Marcos reopened the trial last year to allow his opponent to present new evidence to the court.

Although Mr. Marcos indicated four months ago that Mr. Aquino might be freed if he was prepared to live quietly in exile in the United States, then a tentative offer followed the offer to Mr. Aquino of a fellowship at Harvard University.

Close associates of the opposition leader now believe that

Mr. Marcos is having second thoughts because his arch enemy is capable of building up a powerful lobby in Washington.

Meanwhile, the President has declared emphatically that he will refuse to install his assertive wife, Mrs. Imelda Marcos, as his Deputy Prime Minister in the new interim National Assembly.

"Pressure to do this has come from her supporters in the ruling New Society Movement, leading to suspicion that the President was grooming her as his successor to establish a dynasty."

Under a decree published last month, Mr. Marcos laid down the procedure for succession if he dies or is incapacitated. Under this, the Speaker of the National Assembly takes over as the titular head of state while the Deputy Prime Minister acts as Prime Minister until a new leader is elected in the Assembly.

However, the President now appears to have turned down this plan. Setting out his views in an interview with the weekly magazine, *Panorama*, yesterday, he said: "The first lady is not going to be Deputy Prime Minister. She and I have an agreement on this. She will not accept. I have thoroughly studied the matter and we will put an end to all this talk about a dynasty."

Cash in bank fraud case 'belonged to ex-Premier'

From Our Own Correspondent
Delhi, Sept 11

Mr. Moraji Desai, the Indian Prime Minister, today told a commission of inquiry here that in his view the 6m rupees (£400,000) withdrawn from the Reserve Bank of India after a mysterious telephone call in May, 1971, must have belonged to Mrs. Indira Gandhi.

It could only have been Mrs. Gandhi's money if it was withdrawn so easily and so quickly. The Reddy Commission is investigating the so-called

"Nagarwala bank fraud case", so named after the retired Army officer who confessed to impersonating the former Prime Minister's voice and was sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment for it at the time.

He died in February, 1973, without any clear account of what the money was intended for ever emerging. In his confession Mr. Nagarwala stated that he told the bank's cashier, who paid over the money, that the funds were needed for a "top secret Bangladesh mission".

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Vietnamese told to prepare to fight against China

eking, Sept 11.—The New

news agency said today Vietnam was increasing its forces along its northern border with China.

The report from the border of Tugueing, in the ngai Chuang Autonomous region, on one of the main re-crossing points, the agency's correspondent said he had also shot at three Vietnamese security men had tried to cross the border river to China.

According to the report, 518 Chinese had been forced to flee the border river by the Vietnamese authorities, between September 2 and 5.

A correspondent quoted a

S Australia ban on Biggles 'racist' books

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, Sept 11

The Biggles books by Captain W. E. Johns, which have long been favourites in Australia, have been banned from the South Australian state library on the grounds that they are racist and violent.

Biggles came under attack in a paper presented to a recent political studies conference in Adelaide when two academics said Biggles and his companions were racist reactionaries.

The library ban prohibits suburban and country libraries throughout South Australia from stocking the 87 Biggles books.

Many South Australian schools have also banned Biggles.

brief

tile polls ruled until 1985

antiago, Sept 11.—President Pinochet said today that there be no elections in Chile at least 1985.

A speech marking the fifth anniversary of the coup that threw the Marxist Allende from the President said also a transitional period of "movement, with an appointed res, would begin after a constitution was approved national plebiscite. But at for this was set.

us trial date

is, Sept 11.—The trial of mission trade union leaders ed of being responsible for last January will open on today, defence lawyers said, complained that they had ved the 5,000-page report e preliminary inquiry only

ko friends held

annesburg, Sept 11.— African security police derained relatives and ds of the Black Conscious leader Steve Biko who one year ago tomorrow, Star newspaper reported.

ners dismissed

na, Sept 11.—Peruvian leaders said here that e Government pledge, reprisals 54 miners have dismissed for their part five-week strike

porter's suicide

k Lawn, Illinois, Sept 11.— ge Bliss, a Pulitzer Prize- ing reporter for the *Chica- ribune*, shot and critically ded his wife, then shot off dead at his home today.

Amin pledge to investigate breaches of human rights

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Sept 11

President Amin has promised that all allegations of infringements of human rights in Uganda will be fully investigated, even if they involve members of his armed forces or the State Research Bureau, his intelligence service.

According to Uganda radio, the President said this when he inaugurated a committee on human rights, headed by Mr. Matovu, Uganda's Minister of Justice. It also includes Mr. Muhammad Saied, the Chief Justice, and Major-General Yusuf Gowog, the Army Chief of Staff.

His decision to set up the committee comes after numerous complaints of violations of human rights in Uganda, by organizations such as the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International.

President Amin asserted, however, that these complaints resulted from "malicious propaganda" by former ministers and other Ugandans who had fled the country.

Students fail to free soldier held for Briton's murder

Gaborone, Botswana, Sept 11.

Police fired teargas today in clashes with crowds of students demanding the release of a Botswana soldier charged with the murder of Nicholas Love, a 19-year-old British tourist, and two South Africans, the South African Press Association said.

Mr Love and William De Beer and Michael Arden, the two South Africans, were shot dead while in the custody of a Botswana defence force patrol on March 31. Today's protest was over Botswana's decision last month to charge Sergeant

Ompatse Tswaipe, the platoon commander, with their murder. The trial is imminent.

Botswana police, carrying batons and shields formed a cordon around the University of Gaborone to stop the students marching to President Sir Seretse Khama's office in the city centre, the agency said.

The students carried placards saying: "Release Sergeant Tswaipe and promote him for his heroic deeds and patriotism" and "Release Sergeant Tswaipe now. We need him for the protection of our borders".—Reuters.

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15/11/2015

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Ideas in action

Ideas in action 

Bernard Levin

These weasel words that should shame Liberal hearts

My well-known equanimity and sweetness of temper, all the stronger for a recent holiday, survived with ease the discovery on my return that the papers were full of headlines like "BL to shelve investment" and even "Death-knell sounds for BL". The smile vanished abruptly from my face, however, at the spectacle of the Liberal Party trying to pretend that it has never heard of anyone called Thorpe, and doing so, moreover, with a blend of ineptitude, hypocrisy, and plain swinishness that positively defies belief, each of these three constituent qualities being more repellent than the other two together.

You see what I mean about my temper. But I hope you also see what I mean about the Liberal Party. Take, to start with, its leader, the most ineptly-named Mr Steel. Mr Steel made it clear to Mr Thorpe, and then made it even more clear to the public that he would prefer the former Leader to stay away from the Liberal Party Conference, and also took steps to see that, had there been an October election, Mr Thorpe would not have been invited to speak in any constituency other than his own, and that none of the present Liberal MPs have spoken on his behalf: no doubt if the election, whenever it comes, takes place before

the hearing of the charges against Mr Thorpe, Mr Steel will ensure that these arrangements still apply. The Liberal leader then announced that Mr Thorpe was being sacked from his present responsibilities as chief Liberal spokesman on foreign affairs, but the announcement at the end of a speech about something else altogether, and didn't bother to tell Mr Thorpe about it. Mr Steel? Say rather, in the words of the old song, "It must be jolly 'cos jam-don't stake like that".

Next, there is the freshly-announced Lord Evans, the Liberal Party President. Mr Steel having gone public with his own appeal to Mr Thorpe to stay away from the conference, Lord Evans could hardly be expected not to want a piece of the action for himself, and he poured as he took it an ample libation before the shaming of the dodges. Naugle, it is the job of the party President, said this respectable, Birkenhead, solicitor (who puts such people in the House of Lords without even asking them to resign the conclusion that they have suddenly become important?). To advise people on matters of this nature. Having thus defined his duty at any rate to his own satisfaction, he proceeded to say, "Reluctantly, he is put, after a lot of thought, I came to the

conclusion that Jeremy's presence at the conference would distract attention from important discussions on housing, taxation and party strategy." (I inspected my imagination, as Bertie Wooster put it. Like Bertie's, it boggled.) There was more to come. Some of the Liberal MPs have been making it known that if Mr Thorpe does come to the conference, they will take steps to ensure that they do not find themselves sitting on the platform with him. (The danger is remote; Mr Thorpe would need a singularly strong stomach to be willing to sit on the platform with them.) Of course, the Liberal Party has not shown an entirely unbroken front of disunion. Mr Vaggers, for instance, the chairman of Mr Thorpe's constituency party, has behaved throughout with an uncomplicated decency that has greatly relieved the squallor of his party's leaders, and Mr Trevor Jones has spoken forcefully for Mr Thorpe's right to attend the conference: "You don't," he declared, "put the boot in on a man because he is charged." (You don't, Mr Jones; others in your party are less scrupulous.) Come, my destiny, like that of Gregor Werle, is to be thirteen at table, so let me say plainly what so far, doubtless out of delicacy, has been disguised in circumlocution. The

weasel words of Mr Steel and Lord Evans mean neither more nor less than this: that they want nothing to do with Mr Thorpe because if he were to be convicted of the crimes with which he is charged it might, however illogically, harm the electoral fortunes of the Liberal Party. True, a man is supposed to be deemed innocent unless and until he is found guilty, but for Mr Steel and the rest of them to behave publicly in accordance with that precept would be, or might be, a political mistake. They have therefore chosen to behave as though they believe Mr Thorpe to be guilty.

When the cries of protest, shock and horror have died away, I would be obliged if somebody would answer these two questions: In what way does Mr Steel's conduct differ from that of a man who believes, or who chooses to believe, or who chooses to believe, that Mr Thorpe is guilty? And short of transgressing the laws of contempt, what could Mr Steel do that he has not done, if he wanted to demonstrate publicly a lack of belief in his former Leader's innocence?

I know nothing of the case against Mr Thorpe, or the case for him, other than what I have read, which is what everybody else has read: I do not know whether he is inno-

cent, but I propose to assume that he is innocent. It is proved to the satisfaction of a jury that he is not. Incidentally, I trust that it is legally permissible to hope most warmly that he is, for that I certainly do. What I want to know is: how does this conspiracy of silence, publicity and craftily-betray that great principle, at the heart of our law, by which, as I have just demonstrated, it is so easy to abide? Let them say at their peril that it is easy for me, as I have no party to lead and no parliamentary seat to save, but that they have other responsibilities. No man has responsibilities higher than those that justice imposes upon him, and I believe and hope that the British people will take a merciless electoral revenge on men who have so signally shown that the meanness of party and personal considerations come first with them.

This need not include all the Liberal MPs. I expect little from political pigs like Messrs Hooson and Wainwright, and nothing from a political buffoon like Mr Smith. But I have hopes of Mr Freud, and great hopes of Mr Grimond. Will neither of these will none of the other MPs say unambiguously that they assume and intend to continue to assume that Mr Thorpe is innocent, and that they will only stop

doing so if he should be convicted? And will none of them say, while they are saying this, that they would like Mr Thorpe to come and speak in their constituencies and that they are willing, if he invites them, to come and speak in this? Perhaps not; perhaps there will be nothing but silence from Mr Thorpe. Perhaps one of his parliamentary or party colleagues will suggest that he should go about with a leper-bell, ringing it so that those fearful of contagion may hide until he has passed by. Perhaps another will propose that his ball should be withdrawn so that he has to remain safely out of their way behind bars until the hearing of the case. Perhaps, indeed, they will go the whole way with Lord Gladwyn, and accept his proposal (possibly the most dishonourable suggestion ever made by an honourable man) that Mr Thorpe should stand in the election as an independent. Liberal, so that if he is acquitted, the party can safely have him back.

I will not believe it. At any rate, I will not believe it of Mr Grimond. His party's forfeit honour is in his hands. He can go far towards restoring it, remain silent and see it lost for ever. Et tu, Brute?

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The war on two fronts that could break British Leyland

Two groups of workers are due to attend crucial meetings 250 miles apart today to decide whether to call off or continue their prolonged unofficial strikes, which have aroused renewed and serious concern about the future of British Leyland.

The obduracy of both groups of strikers in the face of enormous pressure to go back to work leaves little room for optimism about the outcome of either meeting.

The 1,500 machine operators at the commercial vehicle plant at Bathgate, West Lothian, are as determined as ever to obtain extra payments for operating new equipment, while at the SU Carburettor factory in Birmingham, 32 toolmakers hold out for parity with their colleagues at the Rover factory in Solihull.

Inquiries by *The Times* in the Midlands and Scotland in the past few days produced no evidence of a connection between the two disputes. The two groups show little interest in, and less knowledge of, each other's affairs, being totally absorbed in their own.

Yet the two confrontations have at least three salient features in common. They are concurrent and unusually protracted, they involve the same company and, most important, they have both become a war on two fronts because each group is now at odds not only with management but also with its own union, in each case the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (AUEW).

While the first two factors account for the profound misgivings about the prospects of the company, in which the country has a very large stake, the third factor lends the double crisis a national and social dimension transcending the fate of a single company, however large.

In effect, the management is standing aside while the real issue is resolved. The question now is whether one of Britain's very largest trade unions, hitherto (economically) seen by many as a monolithic and thus by some as a threatening, powerblock, can control two very determined groups of its own members.

The tension these disputes have caused for British Leyland management is well illustrated by its shrewd refusal to respond to a request from *The Times* to discuss the implications on a basis of their own choosing—on the record, or even for background purposes only.

Their uneasiness is clearly shared by their main rival for the largest share of the British motor market, Ford, who refused to discuss the reasons why their present industrial relations performance is relatively much better than it was a few years ago.

Ford now have a company-wide nationwide wage negotiation structure. The annual pay claim is at present on the table and is unlikely to be agreed for several weeks. Management caution is thus entirely understandable. British Leyland have obtained general union support for the idea that a similar arrangement will apply to them from November next year, which constitutes their own hope for a more harmonious future.

They appear to be using this prospect as their main reason for refusing the demands of the Bathgate and Birmingham strikers on the ground that this above all is no time for creating "anomalies which could torpedo the general white hope attached to November 1979."

The reluctance of their management is almost equally by the reluctance of the Bathgate

strikers, to discuss their dispute. Last week, the 45 shop stewards were still of recognition by the AUEW. Today the unofficial sub-committee of five shop stewards who are leading the strike are to address a meeting of the machine-operators which no likely to ease the a

British Leyland have invested almost £22m to make Bath the spearhead of a modern and reorganised commercial vehicle production programme. The refusal by the machine operators to use a plant already installed, already obliged the company to rethink its production programme for the immediate future, and as determined as ever to obtain extra payments for operating new equipment, while at the SU Carburettor factory in Birmingham, 32 toolmakers hold out for parity with their colleagues at the Rover factory in Solihull.

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The lucky folk who will live on the Hill

A visit to Branch Hill, in Hampstead, is to be recommended. There is a development of 42, semi-detached houses, on a leafy hillside may be found. Unlike the contemporary development of flats and houses at West Hill, Highgate, which is all tiles and pitched roofs, the Branch Hill houses are wholly modern: flat roofs, gleaming white concrete walls and contrasting black window frames and doors.

The average cost of these houses is £72,625. What makes them exceptional in this village of expensive new houses is that they are council houses, with an average weekly rent of about £17.

Assessed at current prices, they are likely to be the most expensive council houses ever built. What makes them so is examined in why the houses cost so much, and what we have to show for the money.

Camden claims that the extraordinary costs were incurred because when the scheme was suggested, the Borough had run out of land to build on. It purchased a large private house—now an old people's home—with wooded hillside gardens. A restrictive covenant on the sale stipulated that only semi-detached houses could be built in the grounds.

Knowing the average person's idea of a "semi" it would be interesting to speculate on how the originator of that covenant would regard what was built. Be that as it may, the semi-detached condition added £18,600 to the cost of each house by increasing the amount of piling, retaining walls and stairs.

The inaccessibility of the site and its steep slope added a further £8,000 per house. Finally, the garden was made up of Northern Lime excavated soil, and more than £17,000 per dwelling is said to have been spent on securing a firm foundation.

The houses, which were built on top of this expensive sub-structure cost an average of £25,110, which is within DOB housing cost limits.

They are arranged in pairs across the hillside with stepped brick paths running down between each pair, and a narrow alleyway across the bottom of

each block. The roof of each house downhill carries the garden of the house uphill from it, a clever dual-use of necessary structure.

What makes these houses so special is the open quality within them, with light from windows and skylights penetrating from the floor to the roof. Some are large with four bedrooms, but their design makes them appear even larger.

Government cost limits have reduced most local authority housing to standard little boxes, sometimes hidden behind fashionable pitched roofs. In Branch Hill, the rather mean, enclosed feeling that these cost limits normally generate has been exploded by arranging the houses on four half levels. The kitchen, which includes the kitchenette, the dining room, the living room and a dining alcove, is lit by a skylight which also lights the main bedroom on the top floor, and the sitting room on the intermediate half-floor. The sense of space flows from one room into another, although privacy, for those who wish it, is achieved by using sliding partitions.

Stairs lead from the entrance floor down to the lower floor where other bedrooms, a lavatory and a second small garden are provided. The purpose of this arrangement is to allow children to have their own rooms, washing facilities and play space without causing nuisance to, or being observed by, parents who have their own sleeping and washing facilities on the top floor. The two intermediate half-floors, presumably from the battle ground, the main living area runs the length of the house and is completely glazed. French doors lead to a walkway giving out onto the private garden, or to the spiral staircase leading to the small garden below.

The architects, Gordon Benson and Alan Forsyth under the Camden Borough architect, set their task as giving the occupants of the houses as many options in the way they use them as possible. It is an aim which is rather at variance with the hard, finite quality of the scheme, and its extremely tight planning.

The brightness, the open-plan of the interior, and the austerity

of the black and white colour scheme (is that a contradiction? make these extremely sophisticated houses. Architectural buffs will note similarities with other schemes in Camden such as Fleet Road and Winscombe Street. Benson & Forsyth point to more exotic precedents such as Rome, from which they derived their sloping brick paths. Does Rome have snow in winter?

It is certain that houses of this quality on this site would sell for more than their ordinary cost of £25,000 and probably for more than their exceptional cost of £72,000. Possibly private owners spending this amount on a house would not be prepared to trudge uphill to communal bins with their rubbish, nor be prepared to park their Rolls in communal shelters adjacent to those bins. However, it is unlikely that, given the quality of these houses—money has been wasted.

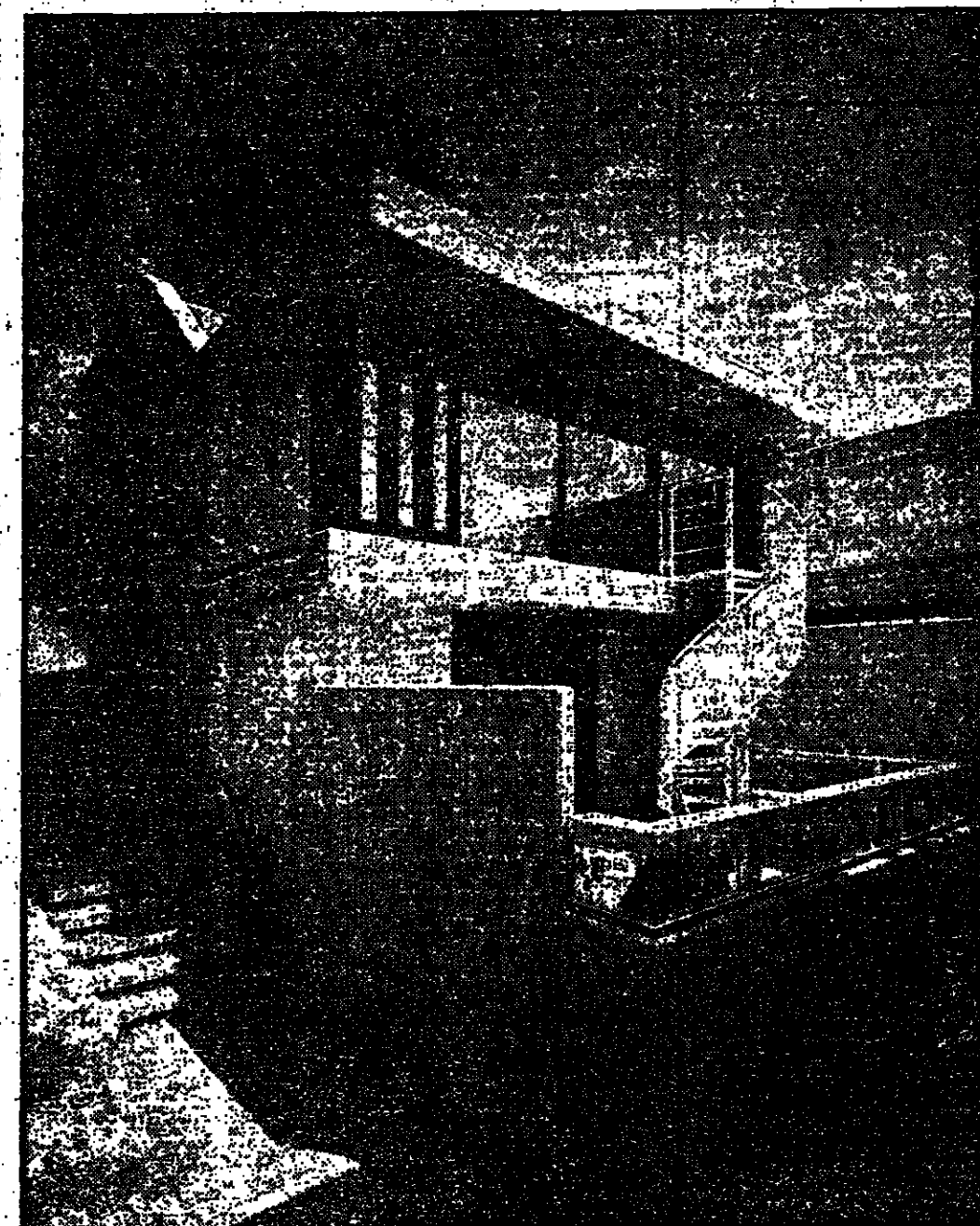
There are other questions to be answered, however. Could the council not have waited until easier and cheaper land became available, in which case the same money would have bought more houses? Some would answer that a council should have a range of accommodation both in quality and location. Expensive Hampstead houses should be put in the context of the borough's entire stock.

In this context, the extraordinary costs of 42 houses would be reduced to insignificance. Supposing this were accepted, Camden is still faced with the fact that the Branch Hill houses are better than a high percentage of its remaining accommodation.

So how are the 42 "lucky" families to be selected? Those, some might maintain, to be subsidised by the rest of us to live in conditions to which we could not aspire. If straight from the waiting list, are they the people most likely to appreciate the remote but sophisticated conditions which the architects have tried to provide?

At Branch Hill, the architecture, good as it is, is only the beginning of the argument.

Charles McKean
Architectural Correspondent



A £25,000 house built on £43,000 foundations. The cost to the council tenant? An average weekly rent of about £17.

Congratulations to Nicholas Monsarrat, the master mariner.



Dublin looks like victim of the Blitz

Dublin in 1978 looks like the victim of some latter-day blitz to the periodic visitor, and the effect is shocking. In street after street the property developers and their demolition men have been at work, destroying handsome Georgian terraces and surrounding the empty gaps with wooden boardings and corrugated iron.

The justification for this vandalism appears to be that for nearly a century and a half, until the late 1960s, the city stagnated. Hence it needs to catch up and acquire the "prestige" buildings that befit its status as a modern European capital.

Developers have seized the opportunity to acquire blocks of town houses and pull them down before anyone has the chance to stop them. Neither the government nor the city corporation seem in any mood to intervene. Listed building protection under the Planning Act, 1976, is for all but the most outstanding monuments, such as Leinster House and Trinity College, which are not threatened anyway, weak and ineffectual.

Resistance comes, mainly from a Trust, which is broadly equivalent to the English National Trust, but lacks

its influence and financial resources, and from amenity groups, notably Desmond Guinness's Georgian Society.

The former has a statutory right to be consulted over the demolition of historic buildings, but often such consultation is to little avail. The latter are generally regarded as middle-class elitists by a public indifferent, if not actively hostile, to the relics of Ireland's colonial past.

The Georgian Society has done an outstanding job in acquiring and restoring such notable mansions as Castletown House, near Dublin and Roscrea House in Tipperary. But its attempt to do a deal with a developer over the future of Mountjoy Square came to nothing when the developer was killed in a car crash. The houses remain in genteel decline, and Mr Guinness sadly concedes that little more can be achieved without stronger legislation, and the provision of an historic buildings fund.

It is not only Dublin's Georgian heritage that is endangered. Recent demolition on the Wood Quay site between Christchurch Cathedral and the Liffey, scheduled for a new civic centre, revealed Viking earthworks and medieval walls. A High Court action by the Friends of Medieval Dublin, led by Father F. X. Murphy, a professor at University College, brought a declaration that the site was a national monu-

ment. Archaeologists excavating there rate it of outstanding international importance. Unimpressed, the corporation intends to begin construction of the new offices in six weeks.

'Red tide'

Irish people's evident lack of concern for buildings contrasts with a strong interest in their natural environment. Some anxiety was therefore aroused by reports of a "red tide" off the coast of Cork, which was proving lethal to shellfish.

My own alarm at the prospective disappearance of Galway oysters and Dublin Bay prawns prompted a telephone call to the Department of Fisheries. An official sounded reassuring. The so-called red tide was caused by algae which proliferated in certain weather. Normally, the wind blown out to sea, but in calm conditions remained inshore and decomposed. The process absorbed large amounts of marine oxygen, and fish might die as a result, but the phenomenon had so far been occasional and local and did not constitute a serious danger.

Canal overtures

Still on the subject of water, overtures have been made to the authorities in Dublin and Belfast with a view to reopening the Ballinamore and Ballyconnell canals, which connect Lough Erne in Ulster with the

success of the Wexford opera festival, Kilkenny has countered with an arts week, including performances of early chamber music and lectures on Japanese Noh theatre. It was something of a relief to find that last week's Tralee carnival, in the far south-west, retained its endearing vulgarity, with the aspiring "Roses" paraded in all the worst traditions of English beauty queen contests.

Pirates ahoy

A sharply worded dispute has developed in the past few days over the future of local radio in Ireland. It concerns the position of the state-owned Radio Telefís Éireann, and the possible establishment of an independent broadcasting authority later this year.

As with the BBC in the 1960s, RTE's monopoly has been strongly challenged by a growing number of pirate stations. Two weeks ago, Mr George Waters, Director-General of RTE, issued a statement condemning the buccannery who replied that Mr Waters was "paranoic on the issue and was abusing broadcasting by using news bulletins to present his case."

The fact that unlike the BBC, RTE already carries advertising, does not appear to have diminished the commercial clamour for more outlets. Moreover, the sinister conspiracy of "banking, media and

other commercial interests" and "get-rich-quick merchants seeking a licence to money" (the member's phrases?) which invoked Waters's wrath, has been ported by the opposition F. Gael.

The grandly named 1 Broadcasting Corporation representing several companies for legal franchises, tirelessly castigated the pirate stations for their "advertising" and "commercial" nature, says the public should not use that they do not pay royalties for licence fees, as for very narrow groups of users, lack professionalism and transmit on frequencies which they have no moral legal right to use.

A new independent authority should be established, it is to supervise programme content, accuracy, impartiality, good taste, to control the quality and nature of advertising, and to own and operate transmitters. It should, like the BBC, be allowed to operate local stations without advertising competition with the commercial stations.

Meanwhile test transmissions for the new RTE-second vision channel, due to come in operation this year, has upset everyone by interfering with reception of BBC, a

independent television station

John Your

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HOUSING

Political system fails those in need

John Young

that the British political system, for all its merits, has failed those in need. Housing is much more than a political football. It is, first and foremost, an answer to one of man's fundamental needs. It may often be a source of pride and satisfaction. At its best, in palaces, castles, mansions, terraces, squares and cottages, it has attained a high place among the world's greatest artistic achievements. Venice and Versailles, Bath and Bruges were created in response to the simple desire for a roof over one's head.

Until fairly recently politics scarcely entered into it. The rich had their stately homes, the poor their hovels, and that was thought to be the natural, if somewhat brutal, order of things. Indeed, in many parts of the world, that state of affairs is still generally accepted. It would take the most starchy-eyed romantic to maintain that the domestic life of the average British peasant in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was anything but nasty and brutish. But the modern malaise in housing, as in so much else, originated with the industrial revolution. In the space of little more than a century the population of the country quadrupled from nine million to 36 million. Formerly small towns such as Birmingham and Glasgow became huge, teeming, noisy cities. Innumerable bleak streets of terraced houses and tenements, often lacking even the most basic amenities, spread themselves over what had been green fields and country lanes.

Planning, in its modern sense, was non-existent. Housing was erected either by companies to accommodate their labour forces, or by private landlords, many of them the feudal owners of large estates, interested only in quick profits. Sanitation and ventilation were appalling, and disease was rampant. The wretched conditions of the new urban working class did not go unnoticed, and were explicated by men as different in their political philosophies as Prince Albert and Karl Marx. But it was

enlightened political reformers such as Lord Shaftesbury, and philanthropic industrialists like Robert Owen, George Cadbury and Thomas Salt, who had more practical impact; in the first case by agitating for legislation and, in the second, by setting standards of accommodation which are still admired. It was Shaftesbury's untiring work which led to the all-important Housing of the Working Classes Act of 1890, which finally defined the powers of local authorities to build and rent housing for the poor. At the same time charitable trusts, like Peabody and Guinness, were beginning to offer an alternative to exploitation by private landlords.

The mood of the late nineteenth century was far removed from that exemplified by the poor laws half a century earlier which, in effect, assumed that poverty was, if not a crime, the result of some defect in character, and therefore deserving of discipline and even punishment. But by then the seeds of discussion had long since been sown; it was already far too late to prevent housing from becoming a dominant political issue. Enthusiasm for comprehensive redevelopment was accompanied by an unprecedented mass of legislation. The Rachman scandal convinced the Labour Party, once and for all, that private landlords were an unacceptable anachronism and that their demise should be hastened by every means. The Housing Finance Act of 1972 was a vain and, in retrospect, misguided attempt by the Conservatives to check the enormous flow of public funds being drained away by housing subsidies.

The most common answer to critics is that, statistically, the British are among the best-housed people in the world; that is to say in terms of space, light, bathrooms, indoor lavatories and so on. But that ignores the questions of why so many local authority tenants are patently unhappy and give vent to their frustration by crime and vandalism; why would-be home owners are unable to find houses at prices they can afford, or the mortgages to buy them with; why private landlords are categorized as socially undesirable, when it is plain that many of them can and do provide something that many people want; and why growing numbers of homeless people, mostly young, should have to resort to squatting as a last desperate measure.

Are there lessons to be learnt from other countries? That is never easy to answer, since historical circumstances are widely different. Such countries as the United States, Canada and Australia, for example, set high store by home ownership, and tenants of "social housing" in consequence tend to be stigmatized as failures. By contrast, in Scandinavia co-operatives and co-ownership schemes are common even among the affluent middle classes. In France and Germany, too, although a much higher proportion of people choose to rent their homes than in Britain, relatively few do so from the local municipality, and many more through non-profit-making and social ownership schemes which tend to blur distinctions.

The inescapable conclusion is that in Britain the state has tried to do too much. Not only has much local authority housing been badly designed and on an inappropriate scale; it has also been unduly expensive and has offered poor value for money. The latter claim is likely to be borne out by a report to be published soon by the Department of the Environment. In *Housing by People*, John Turner, although writing mainly in a Third World context, argues strongly against centralized housing systems which, he believes, can serve only to alienate those whom they are intended to benefit. "To treat housing as a commodity is silly enough," he writes, but to assume that it must or should be supplied by ever larger pyramidal structures and centralizing technologies is suicidal."

John Young is Planning Reporter, The Times.



Gerry Greaves

Subsidies 'eating away at available funds'

It was the late Anthony Crosland who used the phrase "a dog's breakfast" to describe the state of housing finance in Britain. In an attempt to clear up this unappetizing mess, one of his first acts on becoming Secretary of State for the Environment in 1974 was to instigate an investigation of how matters could be simplified, and how we as a nation could get better value for money.

Considering how much it affects almost everyone's daily life and the colossal demands it makes upon the national exchequer, the cost of housing receives remarkably little public attention. It is an immensely complicated and on the whole very tedious subject. Nevertheless all but a fortunate few families are burdened with rents or mortgage repayments. They pay resignedly, if not uncompainingly, with little means of knowing if they are being exploited or getting a bargain. Such debate as there is seems to revolve interminably around the question of whether council tenants or owner occupiers are being unfairly subsidized at the expense of the others; as Alex Henney remarked in an article in

The Times some months ago: "Arguments about tenure have unfortunately become a sensitive and convoluted extension of our class consciousness". Mr Crosland's intentions were never fulfilled. By the time he was succeeded at the Department of the Environment by Mr Peter Shore, it had become clear that the limited investigation of the financial structure of housing had been broadened into a general review of housing policy, which was not at all the same thing. Copious leaks during the latter part of the

took to prepare the review made it clear that we could not expect anything radical. And so it proved. The Green Paper published in June last year read almost like an apologetic manifesto, a bland statement of aims with which almost nobody could disagree. It defined its objectives as a decent home for all families at a price within their means; a better balance between investment in new houses and the improvement and repair of older houses; stabilization of housing costs as an

continued on next page

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Builders' fury at Government may be deceptive

by John Young

From the torrent of criticism and complaint that has poured out of the building industry in the past few years, it would be easy to assume that relations with the Government have never been worse.

The Community Land Act, Development Land Tax, the Employment Protection Act, cutbacks in the house-building programme, excessive bureaucracy, encouragement of local authority direct labour organisations and, above all, the fact that the Government have all drawn the wrath of an industry which,

even at the best of times, is inclined to feel that its importance and achievements are underrated. But the sound and fury may be deceptive. While it would be foolish to suggest that builders are in a happy frame of mind, many of them will concede that at least they have a Government which is learning to listen. Ministers like Mr. Peter Shore, Mr. Reginald Ffrench, Mr. Guy Barnett are conscientious, un-dogmatic men who, while they may have made mistakes, have at least tried to bring some order and consistency into a traditionally confused sector of the economy.

Considering the controversy that surrounded its parliamentary passage, the Community Land Act has made little obvious impact. There may be several reasons for this: the present dominance of local government by Conservatives who are reluctant to implement it, the building recession and the lack of pressure for speculative development, and the simple fact that the Act has been starved of funds with which to acquire land banks, even if they wanted to. It is also true to say that the Act was largely conceived and pushed through

Parliament by the forceful Mr. John Silkin, who has since been translated elsewhere. It was thought at the time that some of his colleagues had reservations about it, and it may well be that they have not since exerted themselves to ensure its success. But it is interesting to note that the British Property Federation has publicly opposed its repeal, and that a recent pamphlet published by the generally right-wing Monday Club took a similar view. Its author, Mr. David Rowell, argued that promises of repeal were based even more on emotion than

the Act itself, and that councils should have powers to initiate development as well as to veto it. As far as development gains are concerned, there is generally widespread agreement that these should be taxed but considerable dissent over what level the tax should be set at. There are also complaints that the tax in its present form is difficult to administer and has generated a disproportionate amount of paperwork and extra revenue.

Bureaucracy is something which much exercises an industry that sees itself as more independent-minded than most. Builders believe, for instance, that the Employment Protection Act poses an unfair burden because of the necessity of seasonal nature of much of their work. "The cost of going to employment tribunals in this industry is enormous," Mr. Grenville Evans, of the National Federation of Building Trades Employers, pointed out recently. But of all the issues which have caused backlogs to rise, none has been so much the threat of a partial government takeover. That threat was taken to be confirmed in a Labour Party policy document, *Building Britain's Future*, although the Government has insisted that nationalisation is not part of its programme.

Denials or not, the industry has launched an all-out campaign against the idea of a national construction corporation and a national building materials corporation, and against the expansion of direct labour organisations. The campaign has been strongly backed by the Conservatives, for whom Mr. Michael Heseltine has estimated the cost of such moves at more than £1,500m. The Economist Intelligence Unit put it even higher, at between £1,500m and £2,750m, not including annual running costs of between £400m and £500m a year.

Sir Maurice Laing, chairman of the Campaign Against Building Industry Nationalisation, which is financed by building and civil engineering employers, maintains that the Labour Party proposals for increased intervention would lead to higher costs, which would have to be passed on to purchasers. They would almost certainly lead to a decline in the number of houses built.

So far the Conservative Government has been making most of the running, not unexpectedly since the Government can hardly start detaching something which it, in turn, is not going to do. CABIN and the To profess to find the Government's "defending silence" sinister. Mr. Shore stayed studiously aloof from the clearly considered, what he clearly considers to be a fuss about nothing. He has been left to the public left-wing backbench Mr. Eric Heffer, to lead the Opposition of disorder and screaming anger. He would almost certainly see what the election of a Conservative Government would do to the industry.

Growth in ownership slows down

by Michael Hanson

At the start of this century, the 10 families in Britain owned their own homes. Even in 1952, when the Queen began her reign, the proportion was less than one in three. Today, home-owners are in a majority: the latest statistics from the Department of the Environment show that 53.6 per cent of Britain's 20,375,000 homes are owner-occupied.

How much further can home-ownership grow? There is no way of knowing for certain, because the desire to own one's own home may be frustrated by political and economic circumstances, but several surveys have shown that well over 70 per cent of families would like to own their own home. Given that owner-occupation is lowest in the older age groups, and that people who have paid rent all their lives have less desire to own property, this figure could prove to be an under-estimate in 10 years' time.

There will always be people who prefer to rent property or who are financially incapable of buying, but it could be that the true level of demand for home-ownership could rise to as much as 80 per cent. Whether that can be translated into an effective demand is another matter. The obstacles to increasing home-ownership are an adequate supply of houses and flats to buy at prices people can afford, coupled with an adequate supply of mortgage finance at rates of interest that are not exorbitant. In addition, the political climate must be favourable, for taxation can be used to encourage or discourage home-ownership.

Though the growth in home-ownership in Britain has been dramatic since the war, it has been sluggish in recent years. After all, it was in 1970 that the breakeven point of 50 per cent owner-occupation was reached. Three years later, at the height of the property boom, it had risen to 52.3 per cent, since when it has only increased by 1.3 per cent.

The reasons for this slow-down are not hard to find. In the years since the property boom ended, private housebuilding has been running at a lower level than

at any time since the 1950s. Last year, for example, private developers "put up" 140,300 houses and flats in Britain. That was their lowest total for any year since 1958, when they completed 138,148 dwellings.

Without an increase in the supply of new houses and flats built for sale, the level of home-ownership cannot grow. Indeed, if the rate of housebuilding in the public sector were to exceed that of the private sector, the proportion of owner-occupiers could decline. This is no longer a theoretical possibility, it is a real risk, for the number of houses and flats under construction and completed by the public sector has exceeded that of the private sector every year since 1973.

Last year, for example, 162,500 houses and flats were completed for local authorities and housing associations, compared with a total of 140,300 completions by private developers. Another 212,600 houses and flats were being constructed for the public sector, compared with 211,000 for private developers.

The only reason why the proportion of owner-occupiers in the total population has not shown a corresponding fall since 1973 is because of the continued decline of the private rented sector, with its immovable blocks of flats being broken up for sale to their sitting tenants, but clearly this cannot go on for ever.

What the private housing market needs is a return to the levels of housebuilding of the mid-1960s, when more than 200,000 houses and flats were completed every year. Even during the boom years of 1972 and 1973, private developers were unable to match this total, though they did build two houses for every one built by local authorities, which explains the more rapid growth in owner-occupation in those years.

If there are not going to be sufficient new houses and flats built for sale to meet the demand, then government measures to increase the effective demand for first-time buyers by means of interest-free loans and grants will only put pressure on house prices.

That is why there are doubts about the wisdom of the Home Purchase Assistance and Housing Corpora-

tion Guarantee Act, which promises first-time buyers a cash bonus of up to £110 on their savings and a loan of £500 free of interest for the first five years, to add to their normal mortgage.

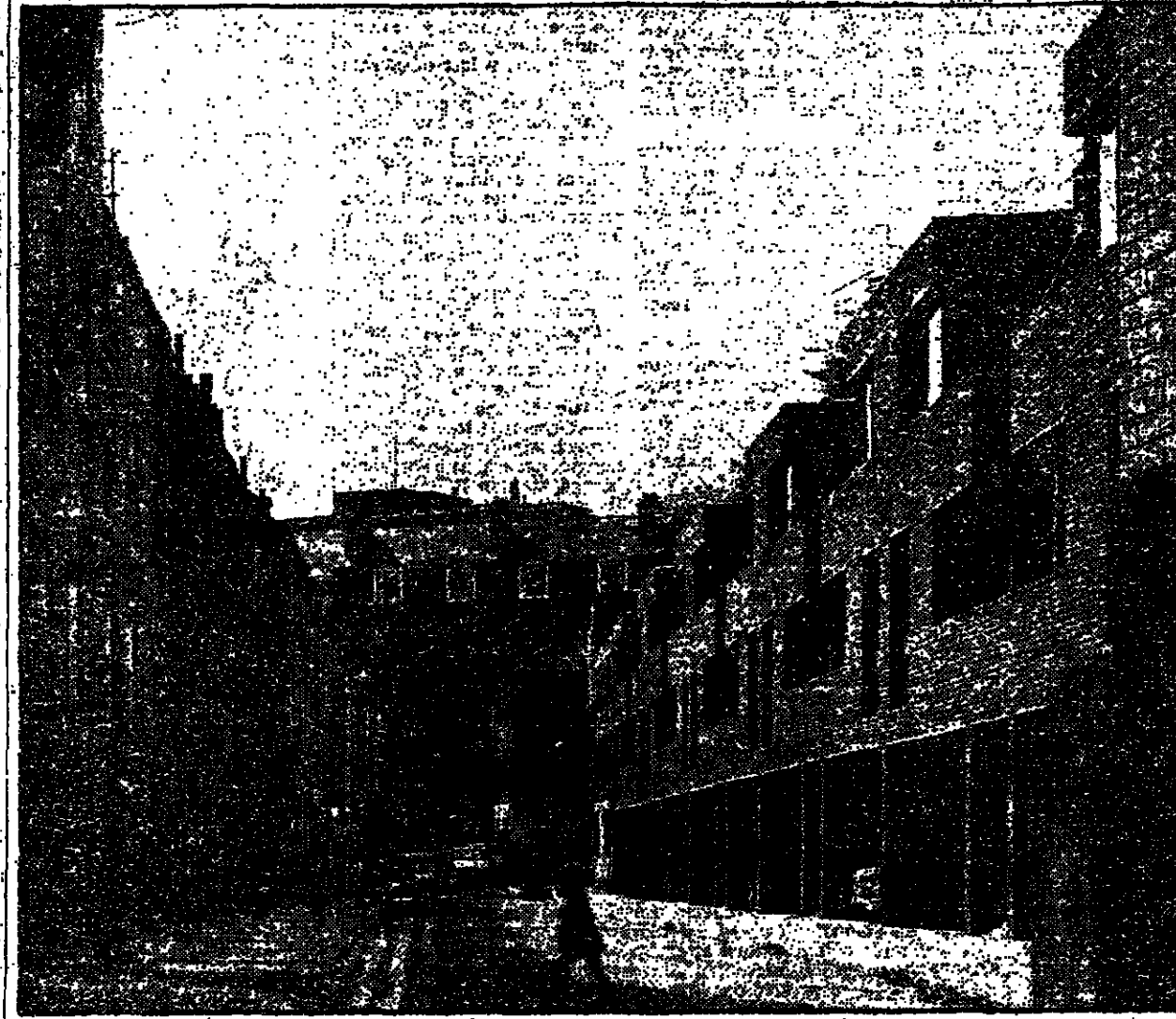
When house prices rise, as we have seen this year, the Government gets anxious about inflation and tries to take the heat out of the market by restricting the availability of mortgages. By imposing quotas on mortgages, with the reluctant agreement of the building societies, the Government has certainly been able to contain the rise in house prices—though not as much as it would like, for the latest figures show that new house prices this year are 18.5 per cent higher than a year ago.

But even this rise is less than many private developers needed to increase their output, for the higher cost of building materials and labour in recent years has not been able to be recouped in house prices. Yet the rise that started at the end of 1977 before the mortgage restrictions were introduced reflected a greater ability to pay on the part of the public, whose average earnings had risen faster than house prices since the boom.

What had held house-buyers back, apart from the shortage of new properties for sale, was the high interest rates that prevailed until the beginning of this year, with building societies changing a record 121 per cent from November 1, 1976, until May 1, 1977. Indeed, mortgage interest rates did not fall below 10 per cent until October, 1977, which was the first time they had been that low since the end of the boom, in November, 1973.

Yet it is not only the level of housebuilding and the availability of mortgages at reasonable rates of interest that affects those who buy, or who wish to buy, their own homes. There are other, more subtle, limitations on the market, such as the maximum amount that building societies are prepared to lend on any property, and the proportion of the purchase price they are prepared to lend.

The author is editor-in-chief of the journals of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.



Winner of the Department of the Environment's Good Design Award in 1973, Westminster City Council's Cato Street housing development comprises 20 flats and garages. Cato Street was the scene of the conspiracy of 1820 against Lord Liverpool's Cabinet.

Main parties launch counterblasts over council homes

by Christopher Warman

If the provision of habitable housing for all citizens is one of the most important issues of today, the part played by local authority housing in helping to fulfil that need is politically the most contentious element.

In recent weeks, both Labour and Conservative Parties have taken up their positions, in good time to consolidate them before the general election. Council housing is one matter where the two parties have widely differing policies, and already they are launching counterblasts, clearly believing that the issue could have a crucial effect on the result of the general election.

The Conservatives are on the attack, voicing potential home owners' worries that they will offer to sell all council homes to their tenants, while Labour emphasizes the social and other reasons for keeping a large council house stock.

A Government survey published last month shows that at the end of 1977 there were 17,300,000 dwellings in England, of which 9,700,000 were owner-occupied (55 per cent) and 5,100,000 (30 per cent) rented from local authorities or new town corporations. The remainder was made up of 1 per cent rented from housing associations and 14 per cent rented privately. Since the 1971 census the private sector has declined while the other three categories all show an increase in the number of dwellings they cover.

Local authority housing exists to provide a house for people who either cannot afford to or do not want to buy a home. The latter function is important in the light of the contraction of the private sector as well as for the more theoretical reason that it gives people wider choice of tenure, which is the common aim.

It is surely a blinkered view to question—as some people are doing—whether councils should be in business in the rented market, except as a minor sort of commitment to welfare. Although there is a surplus of dwellings in Britain, council waiting lists do not get any shorter as the move from the Conservatives to accelerate the sale of council

houses goes into higher gear. The Conservative Party, through Mr. Michael Heseltine, the shadow environment minister, recently launched his party's campaign on housing with a pledge that a Conservative government would offer a statutory right to council and new town tenants to buy their homes at a price which would reflect their position as sitting tenants. The party's aim to expand home-ownership on a massive scale would give choice and freedom of movement to enormous numbers of people, he said.

He drew a picture of council tenants imprisoned in their own environment, not daring to move for fear that they would not qualify for a place on another council list. He did, however, accept that there would always be a need for rented properties, and thus proposed a tenants' charter to secure their rights and give them more say in the management of their homes.

Labour's view is straightforward—it is opposed to the disposal of council housing, wherever this would make it more difficult to meet the need for rented accommodation. The policy is based partly on scepticism about the possible benefits of sales, but more on social grounds. Sales do not merely reduce the portion of housing stock allocated according to housing need and increase the portion allocated according to ability to pay the rent, it is always the best housing which has been sold—semi-detached houses with gardens rather than flats or terraced houses.

Therefore, Labour argues, the chances for remaining tenants to transfer into better housing are reduced both in quantity and quality, making it more difficult for families with children to move out of tower blocks. The party sees the large-scale sale of council homes as giving freedom to buy at the expense of other tenants' freedom of choice.

It recognizes the right of local authorities to sell if they have been elected to do so, but wishes to end the system of giving a discount to the tenant who stays after a period of tenure. "We see no reason why the sale of public assets, paid for over the years by tenants, ratepayers and taxpayers, should be permitted at less than full market value," it states in a party document. Even with so sensitive an issue, both parties manage to pay lip service to the other's position and temper the extreme view, on the one hand, that no council houses should be sold, and on the other hand, that the eccentric if closely reasoned proposals by Mr. Peter

Walker, former environment secretary, that council houses should be given everywhere, and the blocks lost, but Mr. Walker's arguments on housing have undoubtedly helped in the forming of the present party policy.

There has been criticism over the past few years that local authority housing policy has been too rigid, that the soulless atmosphere of some estates contributes to distress there, and more imagination by the planners and architects is urgently needed to learn the lessons of the past. But it is wrong to put all the blame on the designers, and other means must be found to tackle the causes.

A closer involvement of the tenants in their homes and environment could help, and recently a suggestion was made that teenagers should make a payment towards the rates as a possible way of giving them some sort of responsibility to and feeling for the community.

What is certain is that local authorities will continue to have a vital role in housing, regardless of how many of their dwellings are sold. There is too much at stake, both in terms of financial investment and in the welfare of the community, to allow the dereliction on some estates to continue. Of that both parties can agree.

The author is Local Government Correspondent, *The Times*.

Subsidies 'eating away at available funds'

continued from previous page

element of the average family budget; meeting the needs of special groups, such as the old, the disabled and the handicapped; reasonable priority in access to public rented housing for those who have been at the end of the queue; and help workers changing jobs.

It did make some moderately useful suggestions: that the Government should offer bonuses and interest-free loans to first-time buyers; that councils should be able to make topping-up loans to bridge the gap between the price of a house and what the building society was prepared to lend; that they should be able to guarantee mortgages on certain properties (a system employed in the United States for many years with notable success); and that improvement and repair grants should be expanded.

Almost the only concession made in the Green Paper to the demand for a financial restructuring was that subsidies to local authorities should be gradually redirected towards those with substantial housing problems and new building needs. Councils with a large stock of older, cheaper housing should, by implication, be expected to cover their current account costs from rents and rates.

If that carried echoes of the Conservative Housing Finance Act of 1972, which was fiercely castigated by the Labour Party and led to the "Clay Cross rebellion", there were other suggestions in the document that might almost have been drafted by the Tory Central Office.

It called for greater opportunities for people to own their homes or participate in shared equity schemes and for greater independence for tenants in both private and public sectors. It was small wonder that Mr. Michael Heseltine, chief opposition spokesman on the environment, remarked that half the package abandoned the more radical objectives of the left wing of the Labour Party, while the other half embodied the policies of the Conservatives.

Mr. Shore might have rejoined that a bipartisan approach was nothing to be deplored. Instead, he defended his reluctance to tamper with the system by maintaining that on the whole it was working pretty well. Housing conditions had immensely improved in the past 25 years, he pointed out, and today only one in seven households was living in unsatisfactory conditions, compared with one

in three in 1951. He conceded that present general subsidy tenants and owner-occupiers had been much criticised. But the effect of most subsidies, when stripped of their essentials, would significantly increase cost to the tenant and the home owner of rent or buying his house. As to whether one group benefited more than the other was impossible to say, he said, because the Green Paper was a detailed analysis of the housing situation, not a blueprint for action. The other was his expression of desire to expand the forms of tenure, through housing associations, co-operative and co-ownership schemes.

In the second case, implication clearly was, if the polarization between council tenants and home owners could be reduced, much of the criticism of present subsidy arrangements would be blunted. But to those who had hoped for far-reaching change, this was proof that the Government was not serious about housing. Opponents had misunderstood or disregarded the real issue, which was not whether one part of the population was getting better deal than the other, but whether the whole subsidy system was undermining the nation's ability to provide habitable homes for all.

According to Mr. Brian Douglas-Mann, Labour MP for Merton, Mitcham and Morden, and a knowledgeable backbench critic of the burden of subsidies is eating away at funds available for housing investment. Money is being directed towards owners and tenants who already adequately house and, in many cases, can well afford to pay more while far too little is done about those in real need.

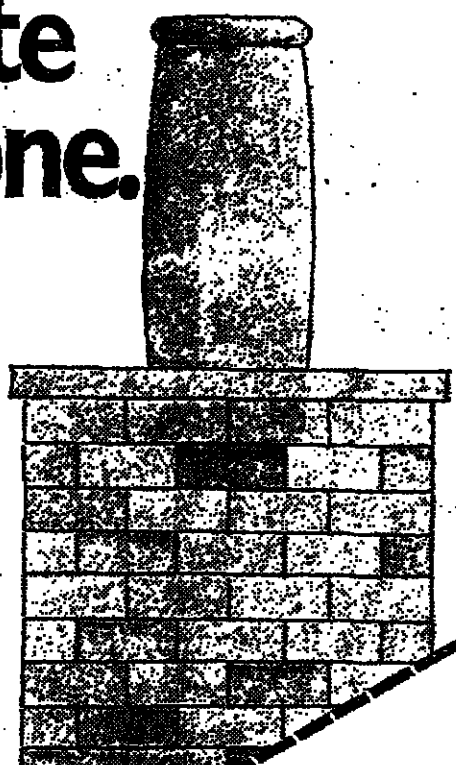
In his article, Mr. Henn echoed the same complaint, accusing the Government of avoiding the real issue. He quoted an observation of the right thing by house to judge from the most almost thankful response that greeted the Green Paper, and the absence any forceful debate, if time is not yet in sight.

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Pendulum may have swung far enough against private letting

Michael Hanson

ough it is only since that the number of occupied houses and in Britain has exceeded number of rented ones, changes that have been place in the rented or have their rents in rent Act 1957.

om that date, private housing began to ne more rapidly, while all housing continued row. The result is that there are more com houses and flats than before: 6,500,000 to be. But the private market has fallen more than five million under three million. It looks as though it continue to fall.

me argue that this is ne thing, since the bit of rented housing is of examples of exploi-

tation and profiteering at the expense of defenceless tenants. Today, however, tenants are no longer defenceless. They are legally protected against eviction and harassment and their rents are so strictly regulated as to be increasingly out of touch with the true levels of the market.

That at least is the position in the private rented sector, though local authorities have greater freedom to evict and to raise rents, because it is assumed they always have the best interests of their tenants at heart.

But now the pendulum has swung so far against private landlords and in favour of tenants that many people are wondering if it is not time that it started to return. The first to admit this are the tenants of private landlords themselves, when they have occasion to more and then find that

they cannot get another flat. If they do not qualify to rent a house or flat from a local authority or a housing corporation, they are forced to buy a property.

Others who understand the implications of the Rent Act are owners who wish to let their properties while they go abroad for a few years, or those who buy a property for their retirement and who wish to let it until they need it. Possession, which was always nine tenths of the law, has now become so respected, even when obtained illegally by squatters, that it is difficult to rebut.

The result has been that many landlords have preferred to withhold their properties from the market rather than let them because they have been uncertain of regaining possession. Others have only let to companies, not to individual makers who do not enjoy

the protection of the Rent Acts.

Landlords of houses and flats that were once regarded as investments have taken to selling their properties rather than relating them when they regain possession at the end of a lease.

The decline in private rented housing from 44 per cent of all housing in 1950 to a mere 14.5 per cent at the beginning of this year has been only partly compensated for by the growth in the public sector, where rented housing now accounts for 31.9 per cent of the nation's housing stock. This, is because the public sector is not simply open to those with an ability to pay; it is restricted to those who satisfy certain standards of housing need.

To some extent, the growth of housing associations in recent years has helped to fill the gap be-

tween the demand for rented housing and the supply. This is because housing associations seek to meet all kinds of housing need, though most of them are concerned to meet the specific requirements of certain disadvantaged sections of the population, such as the elderly, the disabled and, more recently, students and young people.

This leaves a broad band of the population whose needs are now inadequately met by the housing market. These are young couples who are not yet in a position to buy their first house or flat, single people who do not wish to buy, and those whose job requires them to move from place to place.

In a perfect market, all effective demands would be met, but in the housing market the real demand for rented housing is no longer being met because the supply of certain types of hous-

ing is now no longer an economic proposition for the suppliers.

In many other European countries, for example, the demand for rented housing is met by the development of blocks of flats for letting by insurance companies and pension funds.

In Britain, however, most of the insurance companies who used to have considerable holdings of rented property have sold out in recent years to property entrepreneurs. Often of dubious ethics, and the pension funds whose growth has been so dramatic have, so far, confined their property investments to offices, shops, factories, warehouses and farms.

This does not mean that the financial institutions are completely without interest in residential property, however. Many would be willing to accept that they had a certain social responsibility to invest a proportion of

their funds in housing as well as other types of property, but their overriding responsibility is to their policy-holders or pensioners, and they would be letting their tenants quiet enjoyment so long as they paid their rents in full and on time.

There are many reasons why private landlords are unlikely to be allowed the freedom to profit from residential property again, at least in the foreseeable future, but it would take very few changes in the law to encourage institutional landlords such as insurance companies and pension funds to invest in residential property.

The first change could be that all new residential development built for letting should be incorporated in by insurance companies, pension funds and charitable bodies could be exempt from the provisions of the Rent Acts regarding security of tenure and regulation of rents. This would

immediately create two markets in rented property, a free market and a regulated one. Rents in the open market for new houses and flats would be much higher than those in the regulated sector, but some tenants would be willing to pay these in order to obtain a property they wanted to rent rather than to buy.

Later, when the supply of open market rented property had increased sufficiently, institutional landlords might be allowed to relet existing rent-controlled property outside the Rent Acts once it had become vacant. There would need to be sanctions to ensure that landlords observed their responsibilities, but these could be incorporated in the present supervisory regulations for such institutions, most of whom are only too keen to maintain a good reputation if only because of the ever-present threat of nationalization.

How to provide new homes without demolishing the old

office is on the first floor of a high-rise building. It has been a low-rise building, but the firm was issued permission to demolish a terrace of late Georgian houses on one side of the site, so the architects had squeeze everything into space.

here was a time when authorities would send the bulldozers to ready empire-builders pised to d in gunboats. Housing elopment meant laying te whole streets and re-ting them, slowly, with crete palaces named after mayors.

ut the early 1970s mar- a turning point. The Georgian terrace, so late t to my neo-Georgian eyes ould be mistaken for early torian, was discovered to e special architectural or rical interest. More e public inquiry inspec- decided it formed an im- tant link between the his- ic areas of Bloomsbury Islington.

Whitchell weighed in with opinion that the houses ould actually be retained

for the purpose of housing people. St Pancras Civic Society said unkindly that development should be opposed on the ground that what it called a monstrous 96-page newspaper would be produced on the site.

Personally I have no quarrel with the outcome. The terrace has been extensively modernized and converted into flats. Since my window overlooks the back of the row, many happy moments which might have been given up to enlarging The Times have been diverted by the sight of builders working precariously on roof tops, or lighting bonfires of rotten wood which sometimes got out of hand.

Work has now ceased, and the tenants have arrived. But it is pleasant to look out on the refurbished habitations, with a occasional window box sprouting.

Last year's consultative document on housing policy issued by the Department of the Environment underlined the welcome reversal of official thinking: "There has been a shift away from large schemes of clearance and redevelopment and a new emphasis on area improvement and renewal." If

can say that again without fear of contradiction.

After outlining progress in bringing older houses up to standard, the document said: "There can be no clearer rule that renovation is better than new building. The best course will often be a careful mixture of the two."

This needs emphasizing. Human nature being what it is, many a handsome row of cottages is allowed to sink slowly into the dust—until someone suggests pulling them down. Then every enflame of procrastination is mobilized to prevent it. Once the battle is won, the result can be a handsome row of cottages sinking rapidly into the dust.

Such risks were tacitly acknowledged by Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, earlier this year when he gave permission for a block of 20 listed buildings in central London to be demolished. He did so, he said, because neither the local council nor anyone else, with the necessary resources seemed to be willing to rehabilitate the buildings.

The result of his refusing listed building consent would be, the continuing decay of the listed buildings, and the perpetuation of unsatisfactory conditions on the site also aggravate local housing needs. The official letter said.

In 1969 the Housing Act introduced general improvement areas to save rows or groups of fundamentally sound older houses by encouraging residents to bring their homes and surroundings up to a good standard with the help of grants. The Housing Act of 1974 introduced housing action areas. Well over 1,000 schemes have been initiated under the two Acts.

In the words of the housing policy document: "Unlike G.I.A.s, H.A.A.s are areas of poor housing and of social stress. Planners, faced with horrifying problems, like to reduce them to size by slapping funny names on them."

An important point made in the document is that steady, adequate repairs to existing houses can often prevent them reaching the stage where massive rehabilitation is required. "The Government therefore propose to make repairs-only grants more widely available."

Some advice in this direction should come from the Building Conservation Association, formed last year to

promote the proper conservation, alteration, use and maintenance of buildings of all types and ages. The association intends to open an information service next year, and eventually it will have a permanent exhibition at Hampton Court Palace.

Mr John Griffiths, the secretary, said he hoped that this exhibition would be something like a science museum for the building industry. One result might be that less money would be spent on cosmetic maintenance and more on the fabric of buildings.

Conservation has led to many unlikely buildings being converted to homes. Couples have settled down happily in former barns, stables, disused railway stations and windmills.

Harwich has a redundant lighthouse turned into a residence with a view. It is not even isolated, being inland on the corner of a busy road. Churches have been transformed, although there are certain restrictions on what alterations can be carried out. A resident of a former village Baptist chapel did not seem to mind that his back garden was a graveyard with one vacant plot available.

P.O.L.



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SPECIAL REPORTS

THE ENGINEERS—OCTOBER 23

Government partnerships have not inspired enthusiasm

by John Young

At the beginning of 1976 the Greater London Council announced that it was abandoning its 30-year-old programme of exporting people and jobs from inner-London to the new and expanding towns. Hedged about with ifs and buts and provisos about honouring agreements, it was not in retrospect as dramatic a move as it appeared at the time.

But it did serve to focus public attention on the economic and social plight not only of London, but of other large and medium-sized cities. The topic was seized upon by politicians and the press, as though it were some new and startling phenomenon when, in reality, the symptoms of decay had been obvious to even the most casual observer for many years.

The Government's White Paper on the inner cities, which followed some months later, was seen inevitably as a piece of political opportunism. Its supposedly most important proposal was to establish "partnerships" between central and local government in selected areas, with specially allocated funds to assist construction and renewal.

It is too early yet to say whether the scheme has succeeded. But it has not inspired any notable enthusiasm: the press and the public have been excluded from partnership meetings, but some of those taking part have disclosed that, in

their view, words have so far outweighed deeds.

Words were certainly very much in evidence at the Save Our Cities conference in Bristol, organised by The Sunday Times. Although it drew together a remarkable collection of disparate personalities, ranging from politicians of all persuasions to academics, and from businessmen and industrialists to community activists, it largely served to demonstrate the apparently unbridgeable gap between those arguing respectively for more government intervention, greater stimuli for private investment and more encouragement for self-help and community action.

The dilemma of the inner cities is too well-known to need more than a summary. Broadly, it is that the emigration of residents and businesses from the congested central areas, which began soon after the First World War, has been accelerated by comprehensive clearance programmes and encouragement for industry and skilled workers to move to new homes and factories in suburban developments and new towns.

The problems which such programmes were bound to create were compounded by unbalanced housing policies because the areas selected for clearance contained the worst housing, inhabited by the poorest sections of the community, they were traditionally dominated by Labour politicians, who, if not right, or wrongly, saw

their first duty as the provision of decent, cheap, modern housing to accommodate those evicted from the slums.

That much of such housing proved to be neither cheap nor decent was not entirely their fault. Planners in the late 1950s and early 1960s were forecasting an increasing population growth: 70 million people by 1980, 80 million by 1990. By the turn of the century, the pressing need was to build rapidly at high densities; people became equated with units of accommodation and it took the Roman Point disaster to convince the authorities that an Englishman's castle could not be created on a factory production line.

Question that cannot be answered

Whether or not people were happy at the time to be moved into tower blocks and vast estates, without even the most basic social, entertainment and recreational amenities, is a question that cannot be satisfactorily answered. A common remark to those who question the wisdom of redevelopment is that critics nowadays have no idea how glad slum-dwellers were to be transported from their decaying hovels into modern, air-conditioned flats, even if that meant living with four

children under the age of 10 on the seventeenth floor, dependent on lifts regularly made unusable by vandals.

Doubts about the universal rejoicing with which such benevolence was accepted are offered first by the present-day tenacious resolve of residents of older houses to resist further demolition and, second by the obvious unhappiness of those who live in modern urban estates. It is only stating the obvious to observe that vandalism and violence have been fostered by discontent on a scale unknown since the darkest days of Victorian misery.

A paradox is that the new concrete closed communities have been created on some of the most expensive land in Britain, which only local authorities have been able to afford to acquire for housing. There seems little reasonable doubt that artificially high land values have played a large part in the decline of the inner cities, and have hindered the creation of socially balanced communities.

Yet the land problem often seems to be deliberately evaded. The White Paper paid the subject scant attention. There are even those prepared to argue that high prices reflect demand, which is palpable nonsense in the case of sites which have been disused and derelict for several years.

Others claim that people prefer the suburbs and do well as they move into run-down inner districts. But how does that equate with

the middle-class takeover of former slum areas, or the success of schemes that in Liverpool, where city council has made it available at below cost, private builders have duly shown that there is a strong demand for being of the right kind and the right price in even the least fashionable district.

The real answer is that successive governments have fought shy of abolishing the concept of "existing use" value. Hence, if land was one time used for industry or commerce, that will be reflected in its value regardless of the fact that it may have been empty years, during which no interest in building factories or offices on it.

That was where the authors of the Common Law Act and the Development Land Tax went wrong. They concentrated on the fall profits created by granting of planning permission, without acknowledging that, unless the concept "existing use" was changed to that of current use, the difference between its value and speculative value would be insignificant.

The Act was thus a missed opportunity. It is small wonder that critics of the left, from the Nuffield Executive Committee of Labour Party and from community action groups, have been on the right, in condemning it as irrelevant to the needs of the inner city.

Worries of villagers obscured by problems of inner cities

In the debate on living conditions, as on most other subjects, the tendency of politicians, press and public is to direct their attention to "trendy" issues, in the instance the decline of the inner cities. Few people have bothered to observe that the latter is not a new phenomenon but the result of a process of suburbanization, and dependence on private transport that has been visible since the end of the First World War.

Even fewer have noticed the corollary, that hundreds of villages have either been caught up in the tentacles of green field urban sprawl, or adopted as retreats by the affluent middle classes. Those which are too remote or too unfashionable to be ensnared have suffered depopulation, neglect and an insidious decline in essential services.

Economic factors, of course have played a large part. The decay of industries which once sustained the populations of Liverpool, Glasgow and the East End of London has been paralleled by the modernization and mechanization of farming, which at one time employed the overwhelming majority of the rural population. Families which for centuries could count on rural work available, however badly paid, have been dispersed because young men and women are no longer needed.

Most such people have had either to move or to commute to towns with offices, shops and factories. That has provided both the necessity and the means to own a car, and that in turn has severed dependence on local facilities and destroyed local loyalties. Up till now, the official response which, understandably perhaps, has not been deliberately publicized, has been to encourage a system of so-called "key villages". The idea was that, if one village in every half dozen or so could expand its employment, shopping, social and recreational facilities it would act as a counter-magnet to the largest towns and help to prevent further depopulation.

Whether or not the notion was misguided, there are many people ready to claim that it has not worked. Among them is Christopher Hall, director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, who feels that artificial compromises will not succeed, and that each separate village, having evolved naturally, must in the interests of a healthy and balanced society, regain its economic vitality.

Rescuing the casualties of rural life, the chronically sick remote from doctors' surgeries or old people who could not get to a post office to draw their pensions, was important, he told the annual conference of the National Council of Social Service in July. But reviving rural life was more positive and meant accepting that small communities had something valuable to offer to society.

A few weeks later the national country issue presented a report based on a detailed survey by the Standing Conference of Rural Community Councils, which strongly supported Mr Hall's contentions. It found that many smaller

communities, in rural England, were struggling for survival, as more and more of their essential services were closed and the public transport deteriorated.

Among the more startling facts produced in the report were that, in a survey of west Dorset, 75 per cent of villages with fewer than 500 inhabitants had no school, 68 per cent had no garage, 61 per cent no pub, 50 per cent no sub post office and 30 per cent no shop. Nationally, 87 per cent of such villages had no doctor's surgery and of those with fewer than 1,000 inhabitants, 97 per cent had no dispensing chemist.

Accelerating decline has been noted

The accelerating decline was also noted. In Cornwall 19 per cent of villages, and in Devon 14 per cent, had lost their surgery within the past 10 years. In Gloucestershire and Wiltshire 13 per cent had been deprived of their former village shop within a mere five years.

Nationally some 800 village schools had been closed down in the last decade, and an estimated further 1,000 were threatened; a reflection both of falling populations and of government insistence that it was cheaper to send small children on long bus journeys to schools in the nearest large village or town.

Apart from services for schoolchildren, bus services themselves, promised as replacement for railways

"Beechington" in the 1960s were being reduced on the assumption that most people in the countryside like Pin Mill, in Essex, have their own cars. Yet, where weekly villages are said to have created five-day ghost villages, recently a new phenomenon has emerged in the shape of wealthy German, Dutchmen and even Japanese who have acquired whole estates, including thousands of valuable acre for farmland. None the less the prospect of Shropshire vineyards or irrigated rice paddy fields appears remote.

Moreover, there is the other side of the coin. For example, until recently the Forestry Commission, mid-Wales employed part-time farmers. It then found that the younger generation were not prepared, after hard day's work in the woods, to go back to milking cows and feeding pigs. They preferred to live in council houses: the cottages were sold to commuters, who have restored them and disposed of the unwanted land to those prepared to use it productively.

In strict housing terms, it is probably fair to say that most villagers, whether indigenous or imported, enjoy far better physical conditions, in such things as light, heating, water, sewerage and insulation, than even a quarter of a century ago. But in the process of doing so, they have lost something that is hard to quantify but which is being lost. For those who doubt that, a visit to the Cotswolds, to places like Broadway, Moreton-in-Marsh and Stow-on-the-Wold, may prove salutary.

An inbuilt mechanism against innovation

by Patrick O'Leary

Shortages of homes and the rising cost of building them have created pressure to introduce new materials, and new, quicker ways of using existing products. But the industry is a conservative one, and reluctance to change has been reinforced by some spectacular disasters with unfamiliar technology.

It was partly to make such changes safer and more acceptable to construction firms that the Government set up the Agrément Board in 1966. Its principal role is to test and assess products for the industry, and to issue certificates.

The board is a limited company, and draws fees for work done. It has sometimes been attacked for not publicizing unsuccessful applications, but believes that to do so would be a breach of confidentiality and would inhibit progress.

Although the board is a member of the European Union of Agrément, its half foreign name is not a concession to the EEC, the word came from France and Belgium, which were early with such bodies when they felt they needed a non-traditional approach to

rebuilding after the last war. Mr T. P. E. Lam, director of the British board since 1972 and president of the European union, 1975-76, said: "We are in the new product assessment business. In the construction industry, engineers as well as architects operate on experience rather than research and development."

"There is an inbuilt mechanism against innovation. Sometimes we have difficulty not only in getting answers but even in finding out the questions that need asking."

A visit to the board's offices and laboratories at Garston, near Westford, showed the board's preoccupation of the building industry with energy and conserving fuel, encouraged afresh by government grants to householders. An experimental form of loft insulating material failed its baptism of fire; two hours after a red-hot electric wire had been run through it the sample pack had smouldered away.

A section of timber-framed wall with double-glazed window was clamped into an apparatus specially made by board scientists to measure heat loss. On one

side of the wall section was a hot chamber, on the other a cold. With the help of a computer an operator was amassing information which will provide practical proof of the wall's thermal efficiency, information formerly dependent on theoretical estimates.

Solar heating system was under test

Also under test was an aluminium system for solar heating. Ironically, Garston has had a rush of applications from manufacturers seeking approval for various types of prefabricated chimneys for solid fuel heating of homes.

Not all the work is in advanced technology. One laboratory has a piece of equipment for testing the effect of two legs of a chair constantly striking a floor surface. Plastics, and various types of ingredients and uses of concrete, figure in many of the applications for approval received by the Agrément Board.

Establishment, whose premises occupy most of the Garston site. It also provides information and advice on housing and construction in developing countries. It is comforting to learn that the industry is aware that the establishment's programme includes, in current projects the improvement of the performance of walls in conditions of driving rain.

Another project is into methods of controlling wind conditions round tall buildings.

Much work is also going into the appraisal of timber. Wood, once the basic building material, is now regarded suspiciously as something new. Yet even in its modern guise of timber-framed houses it is some 20 years old. In the same way the British Woodworking Federation has launched a campaign pointing out that up to 25 per cent of a window is represented by the frame, and that modern treatment and preservatives make wooden joinery more enduring than in the past.

Some 200,000 timber-framed houses have been built in Britain in the past 20 years, the majority for local authorities. Although, as the name implies, such houses have a structural framework of wood, they can be clad with timber, bricks or other finishes. In a survey by the Timber Research and Development Association, it was found that some 70 per cent of those living in such homes.

The association's present building regulations do not put enough emphasis on the insulation quality of walls in new houses. This, it believes, would be to the advantage of wood-framed houses which, being lighter than conventional homes, could also reduce the risk of subsidence.

Trials of various ways of reducing energy consumption are to be carried out by the Building Research Establishment. They involve fitting three experimental houses with a range of insulation, heat recovery equipment, heat pumps and solar panels.

Scientists hope the house will use only one third as much energy as normal dwellings. Each will be a form of laboratory, and exacting as the standard of testing required that it estimated the commissioning of instruments in the first house will take a year.



I was not acquainted with Mr. Brown
 knew more about that obscure
 writer? As an art historian I am
 fascinated by what can be dis-
 covered about the past and indi-
 vidual artists, but we must not con-
 sider man's obsessive thirst for
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 miles every fortnight each year can
 remain from sometimes adverse
 environment. But the other day on the
 5 Finsbury Station I asked to see
 the manager, to comment on the
 relaxing and attractive decor,
 which was muted, courteous
 staff etc. I was asked to complete
 form. It was headed "Com-
 plaints". Must we always assume
 adverse - Perhaps some kind
 words are due sometimes.
 Yours sincerely,
 R. MACALASTAIR BROWN,
 Miss Lane,
 Framhall,
 Cockport,
 Cheshire.

Social Focus

The problem of the aging kibbutzniks

The Israeli kibbutzim are beginning to face new strains. Not only are they finding it more difficult to keep their young people committed to the kibbutz system, but the founders are growing old and less productive.

With more and more young people leaving the kibbutzim for the cities, and fewer coming in the prospect of a growing number of old people becoming dependent instead of productive, clearly threatens the economy of the system. The elderly do contribute their state pensions directly to the kibbutz, but they also have growing needs that the kibbutz must meet.

Several of the older established kibbutzim are now employing professional social workers to help their aging

members because the inbuilt welfare system can no longer cope. Heavy costs are involved, too, which elderly people need medical treatment that is not available in Israel, or a recuperative holiday.

But, perhaps typically, the kibbutzim have not reacted with the gloomy predictions that mark much of the comment in Britain about the growing needs of the elderly and their impact on expenditure. Instead, they are seeking ways of enabling their elderly members to retain their dignity and sense of usefulness in their communities.

Some kibbutzim have begun new factories with light industry to provide some productive work for their elderly members, recognizing that they will not

be able to do a full day's work in them. Others have begun hobby centres which have turned into successful money spinners as an additional and unexpected bonus to the economy.

On one kibbutz a sewing room, started to give aging women something to do in which they could also take pride, has now become one of the largest clothes industries in Israel. It is visited from all over the country by people eager to buy the precise, hand-stitched work of the women there.

At Givat Hayyim kibbutz, at Hadera, the difficulties of an aging population are not yet great but the prospect is already a constant topic at the weekly meetings of the ruling committee. Some elderly people are already given light jobs with reduced hours in the canning factory which processes fruit, juices, nuts, and other produce grown at Givat Hayyim and other kibbutzim.

Others work shorter hours in the kitchen of the communal dining room, or in the laundry helping to carry out essential work for the entire membership of the kibbutz. Most people retire finally when they reach the age of 75.

I suggested to Mr. Alex Barnes, a founder member of the kibbutz, that he now had six years to go since he is 69 years old. He replied with spirit: "I have 100 years to go."

Mr. Barnes no longer works in the fields, but he does put in a full week's work. Half of it is spent in the canning fac-

tory, the rest helping to plan two new schools that are being built on the kibbutz. His wife, Clara, works with the volunteers who come from all over the world to work for six months to a year on the kibbutz.

They foresee two main problems with the elderly population on Givat Hayyim. First, they may have to group them together so that help can be given more easily. Second, the kibbutz is deeply concerned about the plight of single people growing old with no immediate family in care for them.

For the second difficulty, the kibbutz has not yet found a solution. The elderly single people will share in the full range of services the kibbutz can provide, but the real worry is that little can be done to reduce their loneliness once they lose the companionship of their fellow workers because they have to retire.

The kibbutz is considering setting up a hobby centre to keep retired people busy and occupied, and that may help the single people to find new companionship. But many kibbutz members believe that it is inevitable that single people will be lonely once they can no longer look forward to a normal week's work and have no immediate family, either.

At least it is no longer a stigma not to work full-time on the kibbutz, as it was in the 1950s when many kibbutz members brought over their ageing parents from Russia and eastern Europe. Older members of the kibbutz now agree that their own parents were not treated

kindly when they were made to work a full week at a stage when they were not acclimatized, able to speak Hebrew, or used to the kind of work involved.

It is now accepted that there will come a time when the older members of the kibbutz will no longer be able to work, and strong social pressure is put on their children to care for them. They are given time off work to do so, but they are expected to make sure their parents' homes are clean, their gardens properly cultivated, and other chores done.

That, plus the welfare system that already exists on the kibbutz, has so far meant that Givat Hayyim has coped with the needs of the older members. There are so few really elderly people, that the professional welfare workers can manage to visit them all regularly and make sure that their needs are being met. Already, the kibbutz has voted to equip the houses of all people aged 65 and over with air-conditioning.

But the time is fast approaching when the numbers of frail, elderly people will be too many if the professionals have to visit them in scattered houses throughout the kibbutz. Like other kibbutzim, Givat Hayyim is actively considering whether the elderly should all be grouped together to make it easier to deliver services to them.

The transition would be easier in some ways than for the Israeli people living in cities in private homes who would have to move to residential homes away from their neigh-

bours and friends. But something more deeply rooted is involved on a kibbutz.

"We believe it has come," Mrs. Barnes said. "But I would hate it myself and so would most people. We have all built our own houses up from the ground and planned out the details ourselves. You just can't take the stones and the nut tree with you."

Abandoning the homes they have built as part of their commitment to the ideal of the kibbutz will be very hard indeed because their personal investment has been so great. For some, the wrench will be more painful because they know that their own homes will not go to their own grown up children.

The inability to pass on to their own children is seen by some of the older members as one of the reasons for the pull of the cities attracting the young generation away from the kibbutz.

Mr. Barnes, who came to Israel from Austria in the 1930s because he believed in the ideal of the kibbutz, is disappointed that his eldest son has left to become an economist in Tel Aviv. But he is philosophical about the changes to kibbutz life that are being brought about by the younger generation.

"The kibbutz is a dream which we have worked hard to achieve," he said. "We must accept that it will change as the younger generation grows up because all societies must change if they are to survive."

Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Playing God in the education system

When the universities are criticized by industry for the calibre of graduate recruits they supply, the implication is that they could do something about it. This is not necessarily so.

The education industry, like the health industry, suffers from having an inverted market. In the major part of these industries, the customers are assumed to be either too young or too old or too sick or too poor to act as proper customers. So the supplier has to play God and tell the customer what is good for him, even against his own public funds to pay for what the customer is presumed to want. This is not a big problem at the primary school level, for it is generally agreed that children should learn the three R's.

The problem increases, however, as we rise to higher age levels in the education system. I am not referring to the fact that the gap between teacher and student becomes increasingly narrow. A specialized teacher can usually keep sufficiently ahead of his students to hold their respect. The real problem is playing God. Does the supplier really know what is good for the customer?

Here is a glaring example of how the education industry falls short. Roughly three quarters of the working population are employed in the market sector. Their livelihood depends on producing and selling goods or services that customers are willing to buy. Salesmanship is therefore important, directly or indirectly, to three quarters of the working population, and one might have thought that something about it would be included in secondary school and higher education courses. But it is rarely covered. This shortcoming even affects the non-market sector, for as Robert Louis Stevenson said, "everyone lives by selling something". The logic of persuasion is almost universally needed, but it is not taught. Most schools teach the rules of debate and this is important to democracy, but the rules of debate are very different from the logic of persuasion.

The act of playing God in the education system produces some odd effects. If the state decides that a person is fit for a course of higher education, he or she can obtain a grant to cover the cost of living and also the payment of fees. Equally, if an employer decides that a particular employee should go on a course, the cost of this is allowable as an expense for corporation tax purposes, or may be subsidized through the industrial training system of levies and grants.

Grants anomalies

If, however, a private individual decides that he wants a particular course of education or training, unless the state agrees with his decision, he receives no grant, and unless an employer can be persuaded to agree with his decision, there is no tax allowance. Indeed, an employer cannot generally obtain corporation tax relief for expenditure unless it is "wholly and necessarily for the purposes of trade", so he cannot be expected to meet the training wishes of an employee unless they coincide with the training needs of his business.

Back in 1959 I wrote a book, *The Role of the Managing Director*, which sold to managing directors, for it reported to them on what they said they did in the course of running their businesses. A few years ago, however, a publisher said to me: "Why don't you do that type of book again, only this time address it to younger people who are aiming for the top? This was a much tougher assignment. What, in fact, are the key areas of knowledge and skill which distinguish the successful top manager from those who do not reach such heights? What is the difference between a generalist and a specialist?"

Fortunately, in the intervening years I had been involved in a major study of the career patterns and management techniques of over a hundred heads of American, German and British companies. Three of the qualities which stood out from this study were the ability to plan, the ability to persuade and the ability to monitor performance. The book for younger people has now been published and it has struck me forcibly that anyone who reads the book and is motivated to have further training in the subjects discussed is seriously handicapped by the structure of the education system. Let me illustrate this with two of the subjects—persuasion and monitoring.

Many people who have reached the top in industry have told me in confidence that one of the most important things they did in their early industrial life was to learn to sell. Salesmanship is just one specialised part of the logic of persuasion, but it is the one which is most readily available for obtaining experience in persuasion. When a young person gets the chance to go on the road selling and begins to realize that, if he does not sometimes come away from a customer with an order, his career prospects are bleak, he really wakes up to the facts of earning a living. He notices things that formerly went unobserved, hears things that formerly went unheeded. He begins to experiment with different ways of using questions and statements. He quickly drops those which have no effect and tries again with those which bring results. Very few people with an expensive, specialised education

get an opportunity to Salesmanship is too regarded as a role for those were not so good at school graduate training program may include a period of in the marketing department but the specialist is likely find himself immersed in of the statistics, not in selling. A young manager specialist knowledge who actually needed in selling, likely to undermine his credibility as a specialist. training in salesmanship. his own special subject?

To take my other example, numbers of our educated people are blind. Indeed some of pass this off as if they even proud of it. Yet the written language of the business world is figures, not words a well-run business the planners and supervisors in plenty of figures but very memoranda.

So long as the education system is structured as a vocation, it cannot solve the problem of blindness. The education of a supplier who has to God to his customers is not out some of his old support them in different countries. "What's wrong with these?" They are innuendo courses on "How to read balance-sheet" and "Accounting for the non-accountant" but learning about accounts does not solve the problem figure-blindness.

The logical layout of accounts is vertical, so that figures can be added up, contrast, the logical layout figures for budgeting and a toring performance is horiz with time moving from to right across the page. does in the grammar of language and hence in the sequence of telling a story

Many educated people figure-blind solely because have not been taught a grammar of figures. They are taught a grammar of words. So important is grammar that when see the newspaper headline "Man bites dog" nobody puts in the words have been immediately concluded something very unusual happened.

There is as yet no grammar of figures in the English-speaking countries, though the world admires our professional accountancy standards. By contrast, in continental Europe, particularly in the north, there is a developing grammar figures, a logical layout which means that everyone can read a budget and the performance figures which need to be compared with budget, so that can watch the progress of organization, in business government or elsewhere. So people acquire this grammar figures naturally; other particularly in Britain—no chance to learn it.

The dilemma is that a manager who feels that he is not making progress because is figure-blind and does notice the odd things about company performance with some of his colleagues not can, hardly confess this to employer without casting doubt on his potential. Moreover, less his job is mainly concerned with figures, his boss is justified in authorizing training to correct this fault.

The problem is that our public education system, which can just over a hundred years ago as a means of imparting universal primary education has grown into one which attempting to provide universal tertiary education—while mainly run as an inverted market. The customers have gripped up but the suppliers have manacled themselves through their state-financed systems employer-based systems they cannot grow up.

What we need to do is to to unmanacle the top end the education system. We learn to treat the customer a customer and to adopt democratic principles that individuals should be deemed to as wise as institutions. It is hardly appropriate someone who is outside mainstream of the education industry to lay down a pre-plan as to how it may develop a proper market at the big levels. I will say, however, if individuals could be treated as favourably as institutions for tax relief, that would be Also, the Manpower Service Commission and TOPS opening up important ground in providing retraining grants, with the "customer having a guided choice."

The problems are human but if we make a proper market out of higher education, may obtain the additional benefit of opening up a vast industry and thereby creating more jobs. The electronic audio-visual training markets both the hardware and the software—could be enormous, particularly for an English language country.

Many people already have reasonable supply of durable goods and they have already tried packaged holidays. What they have never properly grasped is the opportunity to learn something new, to take a new course or start a new life. Christian tradition of our civilization teaches us the importance of being "born again". In an important sense, this will not come true for many people unless we can make a proper market out of higher education and open up the opportunity to rejuvenation by learning.

George Copeman

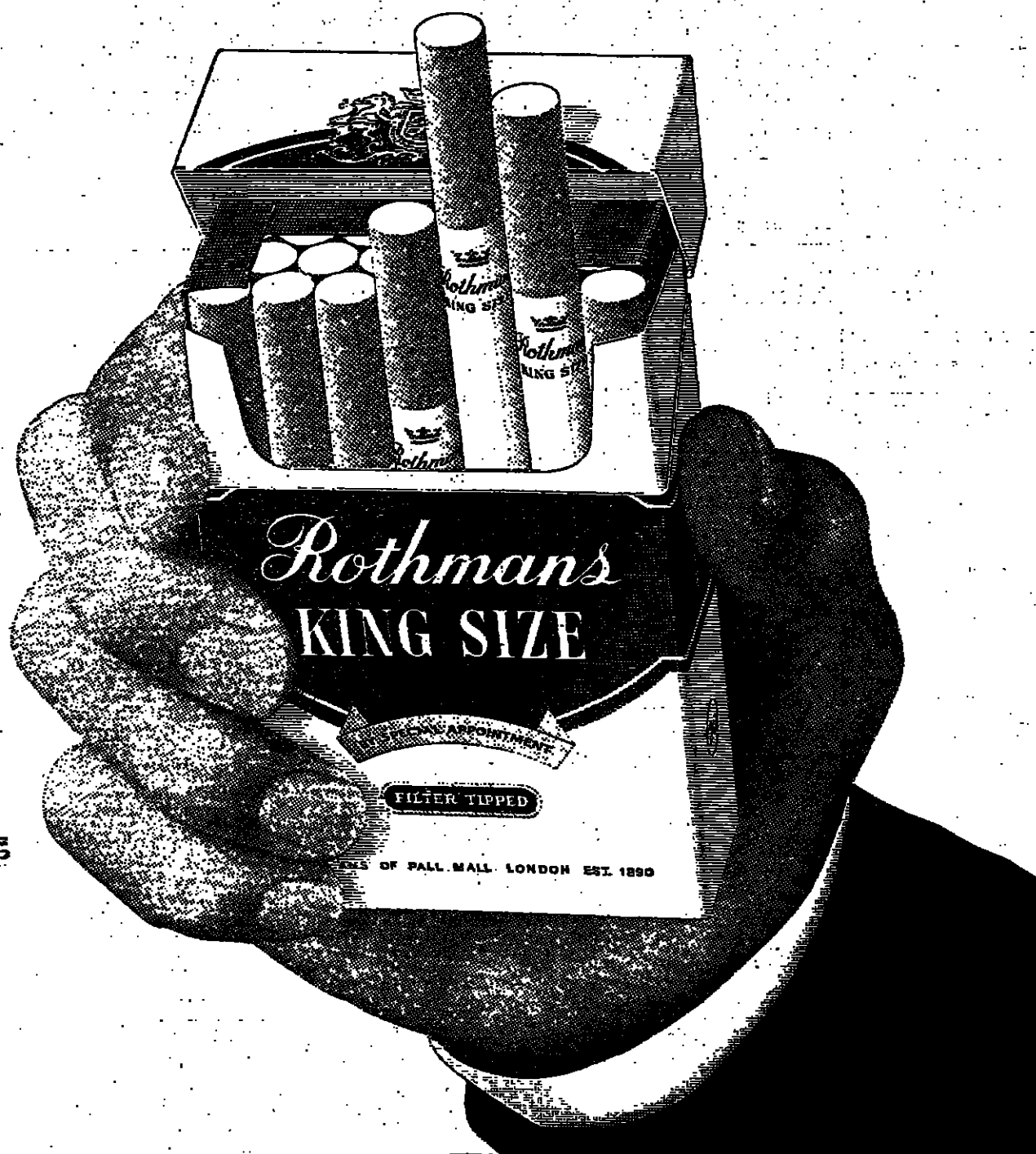
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The author is managing director of Copeman Partnership Limited management consultants.

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مركز الامن للاعمال

Soviet 'abusing freedom of seas'

By Michael Baily

Soviet Union shipping policies amount to an abuse of freedom of the seas, and EEC shipping states must equip themselves to resist them, Mr Richard Burke, EEC Commissioner for Shipping, said yesterday.

"In the Commission's view the Community should equip itself to say to the Soviet Union 'Thus far but no further' as soon as it judges that the Soviet presence in its liner trades has reached the acceptable limit", Commissioner Burke said at a Sestrade seminar in Brussels.

"In order to say this, meaningfully, the first step in reaching a *modus vivendi* with the Soviet Union, the Community needs to be in a position to apply counter-measures affecting the activities of the Soviet fleet in our trades."

The decision of the Council of Ministers in June to set up a monitoring system of eastern block shipping in EEC trades was a "significant first step", Mr Burke said, and work in preparation for the Council's November meeting was now going forward.

The situation had now become critical, with more than 90 per cent of their bilateral trade carried in Soviet ships through "means which do not correspond to commercial practice as we know it", Mr Burke said.

Soviet ships also undercut European rates by up to 40 per cent and the Soviet fleet was four times larger than needed for its own trade.

Mr Burke assured EEC shipowners that they need not be apprehensive about a draft regulation which the Commission hopes to put to the Council of Ministers shortly, applying the competition rules of the Treaty of Rome for the first time to shipping.

"My aim will be that the proposal, while obviously satisfying treaty requirements, should be regarded as positive and sensible by shipowners, by shippers, and by member state governments alike."

"The Commission certainly recognizes the stabilizing role of liner conferences in ensuring reliable services in a volatile transport market, and it is not therefore in principle opposed to conferences."

In reply Mr Igor Averin, head of the foreign relations department of the Ministry of Merchant Marine, said the allegations were "a fogscreen for implementing protectionist policies". The Soviet Union would have to take counter-measures if the EEC eventually restricted the Soviet merchant fleet's presence in Europe.

Mr Averin pointed out that the Soviet general cargo-carrying fleet was less than 5 per cent of the world total of this type. The main problem facing world shipping was over-capacity which he estimated as 120 million to 135 million deadweight tons even if the whole Soviet fleet was withdrawn.

"The anti-Soviet campaign in international shipping is actually overloaded with political connotations which have nothing in common with solving the real problem of how to repay the mortgage debt and other loans granted by the banks and other financial institutions to over-optimistic private enterprises", he said.

MP sure of approval for Chrysler takeover

After meeting Mr Gregor Mackenzie, Minister of State at the Scottish Office, in Glasgow yesterday, Mr Norman Buchan, MP, Chairman of the Scottish Parliamentary Labour Group, whose West Renfrew constituency embraces the Chrysler factory at Linwood, expressed confidence that the Government would approve the Peugeot-Citroen takeover of the Chrysler UK workers at Linwood.

"My own guess is that the Government will make a fairly early announcement of its decision to approve the deal", he said.

The meeting was held as a preliminary to the talks in London tomorrow between Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and national union leaders, on the proposed deal.

This follows the unions' own independent study which offers the Government little alternative but points out that it would mean considerably intensified competition for British Leyland.

Mr Buchan wanted some firm assurance from Mr Mackenzie that under French control the jobs of the 9,500 workers at Linwood, the factory and component firms would be safeguarded by the takeover.

Mr Buchan said that as Mr Bruce Millan, the Secretary of State for Scotland, had been involved in the discussions, in which Linwood had figured prominently, he was confident that these guarantees had been met.

British silence: The British Government has still not told Peugeot-Citroen of intentions regarding the French company's proposed takeover of Chrysler UK, according to a Peugeot-Citroen spokesman. He was commenting on reports in the British press over the weekend that the British Government would accept the takeover.—Reuters.

Pay talks halt work at docks

Grimsby and Immingham Docks came to a standstill yesterday, while 700 dockers held a mass-meeting to discuss their pay claim. Though the men are asking for ten per cent it is understood that the employers have offered them a rise within current pay guidelines. A total of eight cargo ships were lying idle at both ports.

Belgian oil strike

Brussels, Sept. 11.—One thousand oil refinery workers today joined 4,000 oil distribution workers already on strike since Friday night over the closing of a small Antwerp oil refinery, RBE, by the American company Occidental Petroleum.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opencast mining policy

From the chairman, Opencast Executive, National Coal Board

Sir, It is a pity that Mr Malcolm Brocklesby (whose letter you published on September 6) should have been so obviously upset by what I and my colleagues thought was a fair and well-balanced article on the advantages and disadvantages of opencast mining.

We accept that he is a committed opponent of our activities and we are unlikely to convert him. However, some of the statements in his letter could mislead readers who are more objective.

For example, he argues that about 450,000 acres may have been abandoned by the end of the century, whereas in fact the acreage is not likely to exceed 300,000 and of that only a small proportion of about 30,000 acres will be in use at any given time.

Our claim that restoration invariably leaves the land in a better state can be justified and, indeed, is generally accepted world-wide, which is why the Americans and many other operators have sought our help.

In improving their standards. When sites are restored, land drains are provided—often in places where they never existed before—and re-contouring can be done to the farmer's specification to make it easier for him to work. We do accept that it takes time to work up a field and reach optimum fertility, but there is no question that in the longer-term most of the land is improved.

"I can assure your readers that the policy of increasing opencast output is profitable, both in terms of the operation itself and for the coal-consuming public. Production has gone up in each of the last four years (from 8.9 million tons in 1974 to 13.3 million tons last year) and so has the profit over the same period (from £15.7m to £88m). Opencast coal is one of the lowest-cost forms of energy available to this country and, without it, coal prices would have to be higher. I therefore cannot understand his reference to the 'financial penalty of the current opencast policy'."

Mr Brocklesby suggests that the NCB do not treat seriously

public inquiries into applications and that we trouble to support our them. As an experienced miner I know that such a statement is untrue. We do accept the public opinion must be taken into account in the need for the coal worked and we take a time and trouble to make case.

The whole procedure of us to go first, and, unless we have no convincing evidence, the Minister presides or the Minister presides over the planning process to ensure that a sufficient economic benefit to the community is justified. The local district, although reduced to the least possible extent, can be avoided.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD DAVIES,
Chairman, Opencast Executive,
National Coal Board,
Robert House,
Grosvenor Place,
London SW1X 7AE,
September 11.

London gets first of 250 Titan buses

Mr Jack Smart (left), deputy managing director of Leyland Vehicle Ltd, and Mr Ralph Bennett, chairman of London Transport, at Parliament Square yesterday where London Transport took delivery of the first Leyland Titan double-deck buses of which it has ordered 250. In the background is a 1923 AC once operated by London Transport.

Costing about £40,000 each, the Titans have lower steps, higher headroom and better engine-noise dampening than their forerunners. Two prototypes have been used for the past two years on London Transport's route 24 (Hampstead to Finsbury) and some changes have been made to the original design as a result.



Phase Four pay deal gives 5pc to sugar workers

About 5,500 process workers at the British Sugar Corporation are to get a 5 per cent increase in basic rates in one of the first pay deals to be concluded under Phase Four of Government's pay guidelines.

The announcement came after the company had been told by the Government to reconsider a 9½ per cent offer which had been rejected by the unions involved: the transport workers, the General and Municipal Workers and the agricultural workers.

"The balance of the agreed settlement with the process unions will be incorporated through productivity payments," said the corporation yesterday.

220 jobs to go in flour mill closure

By R. W. Shakespeare

The proposed closure of Spiller French's Sunflower mill in Manchester, early next year, which will mean the loss of 220 jobs, has aroused union anger.

Spiller French has announced that the closure on January 31 comes as a result of over-capacity in its flour-milling operations following the sale of its baking activities to the Rank, Hovis, MacDougall organisation.

The redundancies will include 169 hourly-paid workers and 51 management and laboratory staff. The company has already had full discussions with the appropriate unions.

A spokesman for Spiller French said yesterday: "Following the disposal of our bakery operations it was clear that closing things settled down would be left with some

excess capacity on the milling side.

"Unfortunately it is not possible to shed capacity across the operations, and the decision to close the one mill at Manchester has been based purely on the fact that it is a high-cost mill."

"Imported wheat has to be conveyed up the Manchester Ship Canal, whereas it can be delivered direct to our mills at Liverpool, and there is no local source of home-grown wheat which would therefore have to be transported to Manchester from other parts of the country."

"In spite of the company's claim to have had prior discussions with the unions, shopfloor representatives at the Manchester mill are angry about the closure decision and union leaders are backing their

demands for a government inquiry into the Spiller French Company.

Mr Jack Day, Manchester divisional officer of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, which represents most of the workers at the mill, said yesterday:

"We were misled into believing that we were going to a meeting in London to discuss the company's future plans which might include rationalization. We had no idea there was going to be a named closure."

Worker representatives from the mill met Mr Day and other union representatives yesterday to discuss their strategy over the planned closure.

British programme to launch electronic flight decks takes off

Pilots look to 'TV' for easier flying

A British programme to replace the hundreds of instruments facing the pilots on the flight deck of modern airliners with seven small television-like screens will be evaluated by pilots from the airlines, British Aerospace, the Civil Aviation Authority and the British Airline Pilots Association.

Electronic displays of this type, on which different items of information can be called up as required, have been used in military aircraft for some time. They are likely to emerge in civil transport aircraft over the next few years, such as the Boeing 767 and its contemporaries.

The British "advanced flight deck" research programme started in 1975, with British Aerospace Corporation and Hawker Siddeley Aircraft working on the project under government contract.

Funding was taken over by British Aerospace when the two original companies merged a year ago. The total spending on the project is about £1m.

An electronic version of the VC-10 flight deck was first designed and built in mock-up form, with computer-controlled simulation of inputs to the displays, at BAC (now British Aerospace), Weybridge.

It was "flown" for over 10,000 hours by more than 30 pilots, and formed the basis of the refined and improved version of the system which is about to be tested.

This represents the flight deck of a typical wide-bodied, short-haul jet transport, powered by two Rolls-Royce RB211 engines. It will be assessed on simulated London-Paris flights by a further 12 pairs of pilots over the next 12 months.

In parallel, the two main flight displays will be mounted on one side of the instrument panel from the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Bedford. The Department of Industry recently awarded a contract for this installation to the aviation division of Smiths Industries.

In the test aircraft the two new displays will be mounted on one side of the instrument panel, with conventional instruments in front of the other pilot.

In normal operational use these two displays would be duplicated—one pair in front of each of the two pilots.

Boeing intends to fit electronic flight displays of this general type as standard equipment aboard its forthcoming 767 aircraft. It has issued a preliminary specification to which companies in the aviation electronics industry are now responding. Boeing and British Aerospace experts discussed plans at the end of last week at the Farnborough air show.

The Boeing decision gives the first real civil market opportunity to the makers of the electronic displays (Marconi Avionics and Ferranti, as well as Smiths, are active in this field).

The new instruments offer simplicity, clarity and versatility and can be combined with the electronic head-up displays. These, again pioneered in military aircraft, are about to be introduced in civil airliners for use during take-off and landing.

Kenneth Owen

£13m Chinese order for Glasgow manufacturer

Anderson Strathclyde, a Glasgow "planting" and industrial equipment manufacturer, has won a £13m contract from China's National Technical Import Corporation.

It is for coal-cutting machines and face conveyors to be delivered during next year and 1980.

Anderson Strathclyde has kept in touch with the Chinese importing organization since it supplied £3.5m worth of equipment three years ago. The most recent order was for a further 12 pairs of pilots over the next 12 months.

latest order during the past six months.

It is the company's view that this contract provides a further step in the development of the long-term market for British mining equipment in China.

The Dowry group has also just won a £70m contract for the supply of coal-mining equipment to China. Delivery of roof support equipment from its factories, near Lewisham, in Gloucestershire and near Nottingham, with conveyors from Worcester, are to start in January.

RETAIL SALES

The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for the volume of retail sales and value of new instalment credit released by the Department of Industry:

	Sales by volume 1971=100	Percentage change latest 3 months at annual rate	New credit added £m
1977			
Aug	104.7	5.9	402
Sept	103.5	7.2	387
Oct	102.7	1.0	376
Nov	103.1	-3.0	401
Dec	106.9	-0.4	410
1978			
Jan	104.9	5.3	429
Feb	106.8	12.6	418
March	107.0	7.5	413
April	106.7	7.3	483
May	108.4	4.5	471
June	108.7	6.7	459
July	111.4	10.5	458
Aug	111.5 (prov)	11.9	

WHOLESALE PRICES

The following are the indices (1970=100) of wholesale prices of manufactured goods and the basic materials and fuels purchased by manufacturing industry released by the Department of Industry:

	Output price (home sales)	Price of materials and fuels	% change at previous 3 months at annual rate	% change at previous 12 months at annual rate
1977				
Aug	143.8	145.9	16.7	2.2
Sept	144.4	145.5	15.5	-1.9
Oct	145.2	145.7	17.1	7.4
Nov	145.7	142.0	8.9	-8.9
Dec	146.3	141.0	7.1	-9.5
1978				
Jan	148.3	139.4	7.2	-11.2
Feb	149.2	139.1	7.7	-8.1
March	150.0	145.1	2.5	-2.0
April	150.9	147.0	8.7	6.9
May	151.9	146.8	8.7	6.9
June	152.7	147.0	8.7	6.9
July	153.8	145.7	7.8	9.2
Aug	154.5	144.3	7.2	7.8

BUDGET DEFICIT

(£ million)

	National loans fund	Deficit on consolidated fund	Other government borrowing	Central government borrowing
1977-78	944	5,216	-1,738	4,422
1977-78	215	-368	-11	572
1977-78	215	-368	-11	572
1977-78	215	-368	-11	572
1977-78	215	-368	-11	572
1977-78	215	-368	-11	572
1977-78	215	-368	-11	572
1977-78	215	-368	-11	572
1977-78	215	-368	-11	572
1977-78	215	-368	-11	572

Drillship for sale

Kennedy Marr, specialist ship-brokers are offering the self-propelled drillship Glomar V for sale for \$5.5m (£2.8m). It is completing drilling in the Mediterranean and is suitable for conversion to a drilling tender or surface support.

General Vacancies

Marketing Product Manager

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Smith Tool is an international leader in the production and distribution of energy related products. We are dedicated to excellence and high standards of quality.

We are looking for an aggressive individual who can work with all levels of management in implementing and complementing all phases of our marketing programme. Candidates must be experienced in spotting market trends and analysing the product mix in the oil/mining industry.

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or send your curriculum vitae to
SMITH TOOL
Division of Smith International
5th Floor
38 Saville Row, London W1X 2QU
attention Lisa Hamilton

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ASSISTANT COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Our Committee section is looking for someone with previous committee work experience or interest in deaf issues. The successful candidate will be able to work on their own and have good written and verbal communication skills. They should be able to liaise with the deaf community and have a good understanding of deaf issues. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Committee and will be expected to attend meetings and represent the Committee at various events. The successful candidate will be offered a salary of £5,000 p.a. with good prospects. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, Royal National Institute for the Deaf, 111, Strand, London WC2R 0AL.

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London Investment Company with a reputation for high standards is recruiting an able executive to join its small management team. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company and will be expected to attend meetings and represent the company at various events. The successful candidate will be offered a salary of £5,000 p.a. with good prospects. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, London Investment Company, 111, Strand, London WC2R 0AL.

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to work on theoretical interest in the area of fluid mechanics. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, Department of Mathematics, University of Strathclyde, Livingstone Tower, 27 Richmond Street, Glasgow G1 1RN. From whom further information can be obtained.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY. LECTURESHIP IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY.

Re-advertisement. Applications are invited to a lectureship in human geography starting as soon as possible. Salary starting at £8,000 p.a. plus expenses. Applications (3 copies, name of two referees) should reach the Secretary in the University, Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh, EH8 9YL (from whom further particulars may be obtained) by 31st October, 1978. Please quote Reference 1060.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Equities move to higher ground

Any immediate election worries the market continued to move forward today, the FT 30 share index closing at its highest for the day—7.3 points 524.3—and at its highest level since October. In its present mood it may well be the market will make a serious test of the "high" over the coming week but a great deal must still rest on the background, particularly on the labour

continuing malaise in the gilt market however, be an especially helpful yesterday's news of a higher than expected central government borrowing in August being enough to lift gilt prices marginally lower through the list. CGR itself can probably be seen as erratically high given the effect of the rebate, but it is not the kind of thing that will reassure the market against a background of speculation about a possible Budget.

Meanwhile, yesterday's repayment of £430m or so of Special Deposits by the banking system was carried through in causing a great ripple. This was thanks to the Bank's management of money markets over the past couple of weeks, during which time it fed into the market a large quantity of Treasury Bills

derlying improvements

the same as last year, the message Bowater at the half year stage is that, profits may still look dull, there has been an unmistakable improvement in the underlying trend. For example, the modest turn in profits from £44.7m to £42.5m has been eliminated if the same /pound exchange rate had been used for purposes of consolidation.

sin, pulp only just broke even in the half of this year, representing a sharp fall from the year before, but Bowater's oversupply in world pulp has disappeared, stocks are back to more normal levels and prices are hardening. It has already been one modest price rise and a bigger one is expected later, so that pulp profits should be on a trend into 1979.

North America, too, where Bowater's paper mills continue to work at full capacity, a 5 per cent increase in newsprint prices has just been introduced following a rise in the United States. This is encouraging. In the United Kingdom the impact of dollar pricing, although largely balanced by currency gains, has been a Canadian business' pricing news-sales to the United States in American. But here, as well, the market for papers has been strong, and it seems that packaging, which has not yet seen the rise in consumer spending, will begin to improve.

subject always to exchange rate fluctuations, the second half seems likely to be for the year as a whole may not be more than 5 per cent or so up on last year's. The pointers for 1979 are for pronounced growth. The question for now, however, is whether 1979 will mark a cyclical upturn.

At the end of that year Bowater's needed new paper machine comes on line in the United States, but the uncertainty is whether by then the demand will be declining.

erson Longman

game of double-bluff

institutions with a substantial stake in the minority of Pearson Longman, newspaper and book publishing diary of S. Pearson find them playing an interesting game of double-bluff with the Pearson Longman has now repeated that it will not use the terms to buy out the 36.44 per cent minority in Longman, and the four trustees, who look as though they may be able to collect sufficient votes to the deal at next Monday's shareholders' meeting, appear equally committed just that unless Pearson improves.

one who has watched institutional holders sit passively over the years do other than applaud positive intervention by shareholders who increasingly

Maurice Corina examines how state aid has helped revive a sector of British industry

Putting body back into woollens

PRODUCTIVITY OF THE WOOL TEXTILE INDUSTRY 1970-1977									
	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	
Combing									
Production per head—tonnes	17.8	17.0	21.4	22.0	21.4	22.8	26.9	25.4	
Production per comb—tonnes	74.5	72.8	87.6	90.4	82.8	71.4	85.9	80.2	
Worsted spinning									
Deliveries per head—tonnes	2.9	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.6	4.1	4.0	
Deliveries per spindle—kg	70.1	76.5	88.7	88.6	81.2	84.8	98.8	96.6	
Woolen spinning									
Production per head—tonnes	6.3	7.1	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.3	
Production per card—tonnes	56.1	61.5	66.2	70.6	67.4	68.0	71.0	73.1	
Worsted weaving									
Deliveries per head—thou/sq m	5.9	5.8	6.4	6.9	6.9	7.2	7.5	7.7	
Deliveries per loom—thou/sq m	10.0	10.5	11.2	11.3	11.7	13.2	14.0	16.8	
Woolen weaving									
Deliveries per head—thou/sq m	5.5	5.5	6.1	6.7	6.5	6.1	6.2	6.8	
Deliveries per loom—thou/sq m	9.6	9.5	10.5	11.0	11.4	10.9	12.3	13.8	

Source: Wool Industry Bureau of Statistics

for over 60 per cent of total employment) have participated. The rate of scrapping old plant, much of it pre-war, has been spectacular. This is not surprising, given the government's tough criteria for its grants, related to measurements of the capacity displaced by new machinery.

Over 301 projects received state aid under Section 8 of the Industry Act. Given that the industry's gross output is worth £1,200m (against £400m net allowing for double counting), the early indications of stabilization of production with higher output per head and per machine are encouraging.

Measurement of the gains in productivity are difficult because more than a few companies have used the opportunity to rid themselves of fully depreciated old machinery to take the risk of upgrading their production in quality and pricing terms with the latest machinery.

The new machinery has to be used intensively, and there has been a marked rise in the amount of shift working in wool textiles, whose products are diverse. These products include wool tops for processing into worsted yarns; woollen and worsted yarns for manufacture into woven and knitted fabrics, carpets and knitwear; and fabrics for

outwear, blankets, and non-apparel goods, such as pressed or woven felts.

At the beginning of the seventies there were nearly 900 enterprises engaged in these broad activities and the mood was one of despair, with a few exceptions. Today, attitudes have changed and the sectoral aid scheme, with its impact on small and medium-sized enterprises, has been a big influence in putting new heart into the industry.

The problem at the outset was to recognize the likelihood that the United Kingdom market would continue to be under pressure from import competition and the best defence was to attack overseas markets, where the reputation of British wool goods remains high.

Yet a high existing reputation, however, in weaving, or whatever, was not enough. Overseas markets require quality standards which can be met only by new machinery. For example, in spinning yarn, it was obvious that more had to be done to meet knif-free, break-free standards demanded, say, by continental buyers.

Through a regional office the Government offered the industry ways of breaking into new areas of machine technology when cash flows and risks made it difficult for companies

from all manufacturers. The car makers are more anxious to satisfy home-market demand than to expand.

Another factor which has limited the United States manufacturers has been the 11 per cent EEC tariff on cars, but that is no longer a problem, according to Mr McCormack.

"The currency situation now makes it easy for us to compete, despite the duty," he said. American manufacturers have also been reluctant to compete with their own European subsidiaries, but the development of different models to augment the European offerings makes export expansion feasible by heading the choice of model to model cannibalism.

Chrysler's recently announced intention to sell its European subsidiaries to Peugeot-Citroën opens a clear path for its European export efforts, because it will no longer be competing head-on with its own products.

American Motor Corporation, whose European exports have been negligible, will receive a fillip when it signs a marketing, production and development agreement with Renault later this year.

AMC's four-wheel-drive Jeep will be marketed in Europe through the French company's marketing network and annual sales of from 20,000 to 30,000 are expected within a few years.

As AMC has recently reopened its Canadian assembly plant after conversion to Jeep output, annual capacity is 50,000. Some will go to meet North American demand, but much of the output will be aimed at Europe.

However, though American car groups do not like to discuss the details of their export expansion plans, they do make it clear that it is unlikely that their penetration will ever be a significant factor in Europe.

We are not a threat to the European producers," said one car industry official. "And we never will be."

The author is Financial Editor of Automotive News, Detroit.

Edward Lapham

yet to go on sale in the United States.

Chrysler Corporation, whose exports have been steadily declining since 1976, has 772 trucks in 1969 to 2,614 cars and 1,670 trucks in 1977—is equally optimistic.

A Chrysler official said: "We see very strong export potential for Europe. In 1977 we didn't have the front-wheel drive Omni and Horizon and this year, when we did, the demand was so strong in the United States that we couldn't export any. But with the new three-door model we're going to introduce we think we have a very viable line of products for the European market."

But United States and Canadian demands for "inter-nationally" appealing cars could limit export to Europe.

The company has realigned

American moves towards smaller, lighter and more economical cars could result in more cars made in North America being seen on European roads. Several of the big United States manufacturers believe there is potential for greatly increased exports to Europe over the coming years.

General Motors plans to increase its car shipments to Europe from North American factories by 30 per cent in 1979, to a total of about 26,000. It will continue to increase its exports to Europe for the next 10 years, according to Mr John P. McCormack, vice-president and general director for Europe, Middle East and African operations.

However, he told a group of industry and government officials in late July that despite the coming increase in exports to Europe from North American factories "the number will not be significant in terms of the total industry."

Certainly, American vehicle exports to Europe have not been significant in recent years. GM's figures show an industry total of 19,813 in 1975 (with GM shipping 9,466 cars), 20,897 in 1976, 25,385 in 1977 and an estimate of 30,000 European car shipments in 1978 (out of a total European car market of several millions), of which GM would account for 20,000.

The key to the group's export expansion plan for 1979 has been its new line of 104.5-inch wheel base, front wheel drive "X-body" cars due for United States introduction next spring. GM and the other United States car makers believe that the lighter, more fuel-efficient cars emerging from Detroit design departments to meet 1980s emission and safety standards have international appeal.

Mr John Bagshaw, GM director of overseas marketing, said that the Oldsmobile diesel is also popular in Europe. "We'll sell all of them we can get from the Oldsmobile division," he said. "There's a hell of a opportunity over there."

The company has realigned

than they need be.

The Conservatives led a successful campaign in the Commons recently which forced them to claim a larger devaluation of the "green pound" in Brussels than they wanted. The result was that British farmers won larger price rises than he intended.

The discontent that the Conservative action caused among the party's natural allies in the food industry could have handicapped the pre-election campaign.

John Peyton, the chief Opposition spokesman on farming, said:

The Silkin policy of curbing EEC farm prices which the Conservatives broke with their devaluation move has strong support in the food industry, Derrick Horby, president of the Food Manufacturers' Federation, like other trade association leaders, has little sympathy for an EEC farm policy which appears to them to give farmers disproportionate awards while

distorting consumer markets with high prices and surpluses.

Silkin has been thanked by British agricultural leaders for winning tax concessions in Britain and protection for British agricultural institutions in Brussels. He said soon before the Prime Minister dispelled speculation about an October poll: "Farmers tend to vote Tory, and pray for a Labour Government, knowing that they have always done best under Labour."

Peyton has opted throughout the year for caution—so much so that he has even been chided by the farming press. Now he faces a new challenge from the Government.

Gavin Strang, Parliamentary Secretary at Silkin's department, has challenged the Conservatives to say whether they intended to dismantle the 1976 Act which gives the children of tenant farmers the right to continue on the family holding when their parents die.

There are 'one and a half million pictures in the National Film Archive's "stills" library and, of the 14,000 orders handled each year, the two most requested characters are King Kong and Dracula. Creature comforts, I suppose.

Ross Davies

Which stall, the one on the left or one on the right? Left to right: John Silkin, Gavin Strang, Derrick Horby and John Peyton.

dinavia, undertaking what he mysteriously calls "commissions", before settling down with the house of Jardines and given the task of expanding Hongkong operations.

Food policy would have given the Conservatives a lot of trouble had there been an election next month. By now John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, would have been mounting the Opposition with making food prices higher

even have to leave the World Trade Centre building, for the Institute of Export is a tenant.

Day will take over from Ray Burman, chairman of United Rum, who has been part-time chief executive.

Back in London for a spell of leave and doing the City rounds is Simon Murray, 38, director and general manager of the Jardine Engineering Corporation, whose contribution from his Hongkong base to the profits of Jardine Matheson is much praised.

Given his boyish good looks and impeccable City manner, it comes as something of a surprise to learn that Murray served for five years in the French Foreign Legion before joining Jardine's to do the City rounds of dark suit and white-spotted tie.

Murray is about to tell all in a forthcoming book from Sidgwick & Jackson—*Legionnaire: An Englishman in the French Foreign Legion*. The book is based on a daily diary of his experiences between 1960 and 1965 and is fascinating.

It seems that Murray joined the Legion after a spell "working the boats" when he left Bedford School and then as an engineering trainee in Manchester. He left the Legion at the age of 24 and spent a few years wandering round Scan-

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German mergers and the public interest

The West German Cartel Office, which is to give its decision, most probably this month, on the DMS800m deal between Deutsche BP and the Veba energy group, claims in its modesty that German anti-trust legislation is the strictest in Western Europe. It is true that the office is equipped with an impressive array of laws, but how effective are they?

If the Cartel Office objects to Veba's sale to Deutsche BP of 25 per cent stake in Ruhrigas, the country's largest natural gas company, this will not be the end of the affair. The federal minister of economics may overrule the decision should he consider the transaction to be in the public interest.

Since merger control was introduced in Germany in 1973 the Cartel Office has prohibited, or rather objected to, 18 mergers. Of these only six verdicts are legally binding—these are the appeals of the firms concerned have not been upheld, two decisions have been overruled by the minister and eight cases are still before the courts. Another case, the Cartel Office changed its mind and dropped its objections, and one merger plan was abandoned voluntarily.

During the same period the number of mergers has been rising steadily. In 1977, 554 were reported to the Cartel Office.

The Cartel Office considers a case purely from the viewpoint of free competition. The Government has to take the interests of the nation into account.

Office, an increase of 22 per cent over the previous year. Many cases, of course, small firms have been huddling together against a cold economic wind. Some 230 of the firms taken over last year had an annual turnover of less than DM50m, which means that the transactions were not subject to the control of the Cartel Office.

But in 84 per cent of the cases the purchasing concern had an annual turnover of at least DM1,000m.

Taken individually, such transactions pose no serious threat to free competition. The problem arises when a big firm takes over a batch of smaller ones and this is happening increasingly, especially in the wholesale trade, as well as in banking and the transport and brewing industries.

The Cartel Office can do little about it. Under present law it is impossible to prevent the takeover of a small or medium-sized firm by a large one—even when the merger entails a large loss of competition. The law can merely act to prevent an abuse of market power, and that could hardly be proved in such cases.

However, it is recognized that competition law cannot be applied in a period of recession.

James Hutchinson

Business Diary: Day break • Jardine's legionnaire remembers

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Hope for US gas Bill as senators urge support

From Frank Vogel
Washington, Sept 11

The chances that the United States Senate will approve a compromise natural gas pricing Bill have improved.

A group of 15 senators today issued a statement that a vote for the Bill "more than any other action we can take this year, will signal to the international community that Congress is willing to meet its responsibilities."

The Senate is tense, with nobody willing to bet on the outcome of the debate. Passage of the measure is vital if President Carter is to keep the pledge he made at the Bonn economic summit conference in mid-July that the United States would have an effective energy programme by the end of this year.

The forces of opposition and for destruction of the President's programme are formidable. Attempts will be made by some senators to block debate on the natural gas Bill.

A successful filibuster seems unlikely now that many senators believe the time for a clear decision has arrived. Many of those likely to vote to end a filibuster, such as Senator William Proxmire, the powerful chairman of the Banking Committee, may vote to kill it.

Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska noted today that the fate of the Bill would probably be decided by one or two votes either way.

Senator Robert Byrd, the majority leader, was in an optimistic mood today, perhaps encouraged by the formation of a pro-Bill group of 15 senators headed by Senator Edmund Muskie. The group includes 11 Democrats and four Republicans.

Its main argument is that passage of the Bill is vital for securing the stability of the dollar in the foreign exchange markets and for the future health of the economy.

Italy's trade balance up

Italy's trade balance would show a surplus of 1,500,000 lire (about £31m) in 1978—a sharp turnaround from last year's deficit, a senior government minister predicted during the weekend.

Signor Rinaldo Ossola, Foreign Trade Minister, said the country last year had a deficit of 2,200,000 lire.

The trade balance would have a surplus of 1,500,000 lire in 1978, a sharp turnaround from last year's deficit of 2,200,000 lire, Signor Ossola said.

Exports would increase 5.5 per cent from last year to total 45,600,000 lire, measured on a free-on-board basis, he predicted.

Fukuda delegation seeks further expansion of trade with UAE

From Ann Fyfe
Abu Dhabi, Sept 11

Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, on the third leg of his tour of the Gulf states, is leading a delegation seeking the expansion of trade and technical relations, especially in the petrochemical and industrial spheres.

Japan, the United Arab Emirates' largest trading partner, sold it goods worth \$850m (£438m) in 1977—mainly machinery, equipment and manufactured goods—and bought oil and gas worth \$2,600m—over 11 per cent of her total oil requirement.

Japan is also the sole client for the output from the Gulf's first liquefied natural gas plant at Ras Island off Abu Dhabi, under a \$6,000m, 20-year contract, which was at the time the largest ever signed in Abu Dhabi.

But the largest contracts the

UAE is ever likely to award will be going out to tender within the next few years in connection with petrochemical, gas and fertilizer industries for the Ruwais development.

Mr Fukuda specifically mentioned in a television broadcast his country's eagerness to make its expertise in natural gas exploitation available to the UAE.

A statement said that Mr Fukuda and Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahayen, the UAE head of state, called for a new world economic order based on cooperation not competition.

Mr Fukuda, who was accompanied by Mr Sotaro Sonoda, his foreign minister, and a delegation of 113, left this morning for Saudi Arabia on the final leg of his tour which has also taken him to Iran and Qatar.

His last visit to the UAE was in 1976, when he signed an agreement with the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company

(ADNOC) for development of the offshore Umm Al-Dhaid oil field. The field falls within the concession area worked by Abu Dhabi marine areas whose two other foreign partners, BP and Compagnie Française des Pétroles, declined to participate in further offshore development reportedly because of the high capital outlay involved.

Under the terms of today's agreement JODCO will have a 12 per cent equity stake in the field to ADNOC, 88 per cent, and a development company owned equally by the two sides will operate the field.

JODCO will supply technical expertise to the operating company. Installation and construction should be complete and the field in production by 1980.

Dr Mania Al-Otaibi, the UAE Oil Minister, has said that the Umm Al-Dhaid field should yield approximately 30,000 barrels a day when fully on stream.

Redundancy pay talks start for 1,600 steel men

Detailed negotiations began yesterday on severance and redundancy pay for 1,600 workers at the Shelton iron and steel works, Stoke on Trent, who lost their jobs in June.

British Steel Corporation officials met six members of the TUC steel committee and 10 from the Shelton action committee. Details of the men's claim are being kept secret and the talks are private, but union leaders are hoping to secure a record deal. Any agreement reached will be put to a meeting of the workforce before being ratified.

The men were laid off when iron and steelmaking ceased at the plant and a plan to install an electric arc furnace was deferred.

The plant's 270 blast furnaces have already accepted a redundancy deal.

Business appointments

Mr G Parrack to chair Thomson Yellow Pages

Mr Geoffrey Parrack, a main board director of the Thomson Organisation, has been appointed chairman of Thomson Yellow Pages. He succeeds Mr W. C. Golding, who has retired.

Mr H. F. Thorburn, retail director of Mac Fisheries, is to succeed Mr G. D. S. Black as chairman at the end of the year.

Mr W. Fox, a joint managing director of French Kier Construction, is to give up that post on the French Kier Holdings group new business development. Mr W. R. Hare becomes sole managing director of French Kier Construction.

Lucas Industries has appointed two divisional managing directors at Joseph Lucas, the management board of the company. They are Mr A. E. GH, general manager of Lucas CAV, and Mr J. V. Wilkinson, general manager of Lucas Electrical.

Mr B. A. Solomon is to become chairman of Gray Electronics next month, succeeding Mr W. R. R. Haines, who is retiring.

Mr Nick Sykes, managing director of General Computer Systems (UK), has additionally been appointed vice-president of Telex Computer Products Inc. This follows the recent takeover of GCS by Telex.

Mr R. P. Shepherd has been appointed to the board of Pentland.

Mr N. C. F. Barber joins the board of Negretti and Zambra.

Mr William Rao becomes chairman of Staines, succeeding Mr Kevin Bell.

Mr Leslie Sage, a director, is to become chairman of Orion Insurance (London) of Orion Insurance.

Mr B. D. Bickelstaff has been made managing director of Simon Container Machinery.



Mr Geoffrey Parrack, new chairman of Thomson Yellow Pages.

Mr Robert W. Haack, former president of the New York Stock Exchange, has been elected to the board of the Pan American World Airways.

Mr Patrick De Felet, formerly a senior vice-president of the International Energy Bank, has joined the project division of Kleinwort, Benson as an assistant director with particular responsibility for natural resource financing.

Mr W. L. Young becomes deputy chairman of Weir Polypac.

Mr Alan Platt becomes a director of Sankey Sheldons.

Mr Patrick Shorten has resigned from the boards of Bowaters Paper Sales and Donade Paper and has left the group upon his appointment as deputy managing director and director of marketing of Reed & Smith Holdings from October 1.

Mr Arthur Merrick, company secretary, has been appointed to the main board of F. Leher & Sons.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Index closes at year's 'high'

Equities began the second leg of the account in the same way they ended the first, strong and confident that political uncertainty had been pushed back over the horizon.

The FT Index closed the session with gathering momentum to finish 7.2 ahead at a peak for the year of 524.3.

Trading in gilt-edged securities, by contrast, was mostly subdued. The Central Government Borrowing Requirement went over most estimates and the level of new issues for the month was substantially flat. Better news came from industry's input prices but most

Wimpey's property assets, which take in a half stake in the Euston Tower, have prompted thoughts that the group will follow Laid in splitting its activities. The shares have been running up to 98p, where the p/e is an above-average 10, but analysts are increasingly coming round to the view that Wimpey has no such plans and thus recommend some profit-taking.

issues were clouded by continuing currency and interest rate uncertainties. "Shorts" fell by between 1/16 and 1/8.

But it seemed that nothing would stop the equity advance. Leaders showed the way with ICI adding 3p to 413p, Beecham putting on 12p to 740p, Glaxo climbing 5p to 637p and Unilever strengthening by 8p to 596p.

Institutional buyers were again in the market in force and attention was directed towards Dowty following confirmation of the mining equipment order for China. The shares gained 8p to 303p. Powell Duffryn, another group with mining equipment interests, put on 4p to 212p in sympathy.

The engineering sector as a whole enjoyed wide demand and John Brown, up 5p at 484p, Vickers 4p ahead at 210, and Hawker Siddeley were among the foremost beneficiaries.

Bowater's interim figures showed a small shortfall but this had been widely anticipated and the shares added 5p to 203p. BSR, on the other hand, found few friends after a weak interim performance and the shares dropped 1p to 104p.

Tricentral was up to best expectations at the halfway stage and the share advanced 6p to 184p. But this was not allowed to eclipse other oil issues. BP, for example, responded to Wall Street buying and put on 8p to 898p while Shell Transport increased by a like amount to close at 890p.

Oil Exploration gained 14p to 214p, but pride of place was reserved for Siebens where the news of the Chevron discovery in the Shetlands was good for a 36p jump to 400p.

BP was not the only stock affected by transatlantic influences. De Beers was virtually ignored in London throughout the trading session but strong interest as Wall Street opened lifted the shares by 30p to 466p.

Orme Developments returned from suspension at 55p—the level at which St Piran purchased its 22 per cent stake—but, while bid speculation helped Wholesale Fittings up by 15p to 240p, second line attention was mostly focused on companies reporting in the near future.

These included Thomas Tilling with a 4p rise to 142p, European Ferries which added 3p to 137p and Sale Tilling, the food and industrial group, up 12p to 307p.

In the financial sectors, banks and insurance and property made small advances with Barclay's adding 2p to 357p. Mines were featured by Selection Trust which gained 10p to 510p on further reflection of the Amas stake, while Rio Tinto Zinc and Charter Consolidated both improved by 7p to 256p and 160p respectively.

Elsewhere gold shares in the dip in the bullion price lost around 25 cents.

Vickers has been a target of late, ahead of its interim figures due last month. But the huge nationalization profits expected to leave the share another 4p yesterday to on a prospective p/e ratio around 20 and the above-average yield could be threatened some predict, the divide barely covered.

Equity turnover on Sept 8 was £93.085m (16,232 gains). Active stocks were (according to Exchange graph) were Shell, ICI, ICI, Rio Tinto, BSR, Barclays, BP, Ordinary, Thomas Tilling, Organisation, Horizon Mid GEC, Midland Bank, W Mining and Distillers, stock to feature were Ennaries, Siebens and V Group.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Yo
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	to
Borelli Tea (F)	2,92(2.2)	0.57(0.79)	45.1(71.3)	10.0(9.0)	18/10	10.0
Bowater Corp (I)	788.5(849.8)	42.5(44.7)	10.0(12.1)	4.06(4.0)	6/11	—
BSR (I)	73.57(68.34)	10.14(12.2)	18.1(17.1)	2.6(2.3)	19/10	3.45
ICI Douglas (F)	2.8(2.3)	0.01(0.06)	—	nil(nil)	—	—
E. C. Cases (I)	2.1(2.5)	0.11(0.06)	1.8(1.1)	0.35(0.2)	13/10	—
Evered Holdings (I)	5.9(5.6)	—	—	1.10(0.9)	—	1.85
Glaxo (I)	5.9(4.97)	1.43(1.84)	16.36(11.88)	0.86(0.75)	27/10	—
John Brown (I)	3.9(3.2)	0.12(0.1)	1.4(1.2)	1.8(1.6)	27/10	2.42
H. C. Cases (I)	3.74(2.84)	0.43(0.28)	7.88(5.36)	1.5(1.25)	30/10	—
Merchants Text (I)	—	1.47(1.2)	1.48(1.26)	1.25(1.0)	27/10	2.96
Peatland Ltd (I)	9.14(6.97)	0.26(0.17)	—	0.24(0.21)	1/11	—
Francis Shaw (I)	6.12(4.5)	0.132(0.135)	—	1.57(1.79)	30/10	3.50
Stewart Finishes (F)	3.3(3.6)	4.35(2.46)	—	0.84(0.66)	—	—
Tricentral (I)	71.2(44.9)	0.02(0.01)	—	0.4	6/10	—
Winchmore (I)	—	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News div are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are pre-tax and earnings are net. a=Loss, b=Forecast.

J Fisher down at half-time as ship sales tumble

By Rosemary Unsworth

James Fisher, shipowner and ship and insurance broker, saw pre-tax profits slide to £1.4m from £1.8m during the six months to June 30, 1978.

But this result includes the sale of one ship, totalling £109,000, compared with £908,000, raised during the same period last year when two ships were sold, which the company says explains the 29 per cent profit fall.

Excluding ship sales, pre-tax profits amounted to £1.3m compared with £933,000.

With an increase in turnover of nearly £1m to £5.8m, the company's earnings "so far

achieved this year will extend into the second half, but some effect must be expected from the customary seasonal fall-off in trade in the latter half-year."

The seasonal differences in trading are due to decreased fruit trade in the ports and reduced activity on the shipping side, said company secretary, Mr D. E. Phippard.

"But it is swings and roundabouts some areas improve," he added.

An interim dividend of 1.28p gross has been declared against 1.14p last year. A supplementary final dividend of 0.017p gross has been proposed for the year to December 31, making a total of 2.3p gross.

Rbt. M Douglas hopeful after setback

By Richard Allen

After dipping fractionally at the interim stage, profits at Robert M. Douglas Holdings continued to slide in the second half.

The result was a £300,000 drop from the previous year's record to a total of £2.9m in the 12 months to March 31.

But despite the effects of lower Government spending and increased competition in the Midlands, the Birmingham-based civil engineer and building contractor states that it is now seeing a steady improvement in orders and profitability.

Meanwhile a lower tax charge last year kept attrib-

able profits moving ahead earnings per share are a penny to 18.1p. A final dividend of 3.46p gross takes the year to 5.17p as 5.87p previously.

As in previous years, dividend has been 99.9 cent waived by family other holders in respect 1.624m shares, some 16 cent of the total equity.

The group's land and buildings in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, with the exception of certain short-leasehold properties were revalued on March 31, and the resultant surplus of £1.15m over book value been credited direct reserves.

Briefly

PETROLEOS MEXICANOS

Baring Brothers and Petroleos Mexicanos have signed an agreement relating to a \$80m credit facility. This is to finance supply of United Kingdom plant, equipment and services for operation and development of Mexican oil, natural gas, refining and petrochemical industries.

ALBRIGHT & WILSON

Tenneco Inc says that scheme of arrangement for acquisition of all ordinary and preference units of Albright not already owned by Tenneco has become effective.

WINCHMORE INVESTMENT TRUST

Pre-tax profits up to £21,000 (£14,000) on gross revenue of £26,000 (£18,000) for six months to June 30. Interim dividend of 0.59p gross (0.53p).

REO STAKES ORGANISATION

Chairman says board "is looking forward with confidence to another record year" in a circular giving details of recent acquisitions and disposals.

M. WISEMAN

Pre-tax profit fell to £825,000 (£881,000) for the year to March 31, 1978. The company excludes subsidiary company sold in 1978.

PROPERTY FUNDS

The £1m Mutual Agricultural Property Fund, the largest of the City's farmland funds, is to change its name to Hill Samuel Agricultural Property Fund. The £22m Mutual Property Fund is to change its name to Hill Samuel Property Unit Trust.

GIBSON DUDLEY

In the six months to June 30 last, external sales of Gibson Dudley rose from £18.1m to £19.42m. This corrects our report of September 8.

COMBEN-ORME

Acceptances of Comben Group's offer for Orme Developments, which was revised last Friday, received for 604,830 shares—about 3.34 per cent. Comben, which held no Orme shares on July 26, day before the announcement of initial offer, has not acquired any Orme shares since then. Revised offer was accepted by Orme board with exception of three St Piran representatives.

BORELLI TEA

Dividend 14.9p (13.6p) for 1977. Turnover, £2.9m (£2.19m). Earnings a share 45.11p (71.3p).

STEWART PLASTICS

Turnover for year to April 30, £6.2m (£5.5m). Pre-tax profit, £1.5m (£1.51m). Dividend total, 6.95p (6.43p). Earnings a share, 16p (15.6p).

RACAL-EXCHANGE TEL

Racal Electronics has declared a 5.5 per cent special dividend. The Telegraph Company (Holdings) with 467,500 ordinary shares, local services holding is part of its investment programme and that it has bought small blocks of shares during the last 12 months.

INCO VOTE

Toronto—About 12,000 hourly-rated workers at Inco Ltd's facilities in New Colborne and Sudbury, Ont, will vote on Friday on terms of a new contract. —AP-Dow Jones.

Giltspur sells Ansbacher stake

The steady disengagement of Mr Maxwell Joseph's interests from the troubled merchant banking group Fraser Ansbacher went a stage further when it was announced that the M & G Recovery Fund had purchased the 6.67 per cent holding of Montrose Trust.

Montrose is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Giltspur, where Mr Joseph is chairman. Grand Metropolitan, Mr Joseph's flagship, still controls 16.69 per cent of Ansbacher. This stake was diluted a year ago when Lazard Freres, the New York-based international traders, took up shares owned by Joseph and Giltspur to give it a 38.67 per cent stake as part of the capital reconstruction at the time.

of 3.63p, compared with 3.3p last year. The increase represents the 10 per cent maximum allowed by dividend legislation.

Excelsior Jewellery

Excelsior Jewellery, the watch and jewellery manufacturer, produced a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £835,000 for the year to April 30, 1978.

A final dividend of 0.404p gross has been declared, which with the interim of 0.395p, makes a total of 0.8p, compared with 0.725p last year.

Earlier this year, the board made a scrip issue of one 11.5 per cent non-cumulative preference share for every 40 ordinary shares held.

Warning as Francis Shaw slips

Despite a rise in sales from £4.5p to £6.1m, pre-tax profits of Francis Shaw, it makes machinery for the rubber and cable and plastics industries, eased from £135,000 to £133,000 for the six months to June 30.

There is little prospect of the group matching last year's outturn of £32,000, but the board does consider that the dividend will be maintained.

Rise of 18 pc for year at Highgate Optical

Highgate Optical & Industrial, the spectacle frame binocular and photographic group, increased pre-tax profits by 18 per cent to £209,000 in the year to December 31, 1977.

Turnover fell during the year from £4.1m to £3.8m and earnings a share almost doubled to 4.1p.

A final dividend of 2.68p gross has been recommended, which, with the interim, makes a total

longer term stability of economy. At the same time Government has announced a domestic credit expansion of £6,000m is within reach would involve the sale of a £6,500m of gilt edged stock the non-bank private sector.

Director breaks with Trafalgar House

Mr John Mitchell, a Trafalgar House director, has resigned from the board and from other appointments, with the exception of publishing-to-hotels group.

Mr Mitchell was man director of the houseboat and passenger shipping hotels divisions. Trafalgar gave no reason for departure and he was not able for comment yesterday.

Henderson & Kenton

Both turnover and profit Henderson & Kenton are timing the buyout of the Metcham unit, which volume growth was seen for first time for over a year.

Mr Mitchell was man director of the houseboat and passenger shipping hotels divisions. Trafalgar gave no reason for departure and he was not able for comment yesterday.

First-half loss at E. C. Cases

An adverse products mix and distribution difficulties in the garden-products department of E. C. Cases Ltd, has resulted in a loss at the interim stage.

Figures for the six months to June 30, show a pre-tax loss of £14,000 compared with a profit of £60,000 over the corresponding period. Turnover fell from £2.6m to £2.1m and once again there is no interim dividend.

The Multyflex partnership company saw pre-tax profits from £1.4m to £1.3m on over 4p from £20.1m to £22.5m.

C of L Brewery looks for further progress

In spite of the uncertain political climate, Mr Martin Wilkinson, chairman of the City of London Brewery and Investment Trust, looks forward to a satisfactory year for the group.

Recent measures including the reintroduction of the "corset" will, said the chairman, help the medium and

longer term stability of economy. At the same time Government has announced a domestic credit expansion of £6,000m is within reach would involve the sale of a £6,500m of gilt edged stock the non-bank private sector.

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Tricentrol's half-year profits
up above the whole of 1977's

Tricentrol's contribution to the group's profits for the first half of 1978 was £1.2m, compared with £0.8m for the whole of 1977. The company's profits for the first half of 1978 were £1.2m, compared with £0.8m for the whole of 1977. The company's profits for the first half of 1978 were £1.2m, compared with £0.8m for the whole of 1977.

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Mr. Joseph Godber, chairman of Tricentrol

Stoppage
cost Home
Counties
£135,000

By Our Financial Staff
A two-week stoppage at Home Counties Newspapers Group has cost the group, which prints the Recorder series of newspapers in East London, £135,000. Nevertheless, interim figures for the six months to June 25, show pre-tax profits increased by £144,000 to £428,000. This was achieved on turnover up from £2.84m to £3.74m.

An interim dividend of 2.2p gross has been declared compared with 1.85p for the corresponding period. The news of the increase in profits was well received by the market and the shares improved 2p to 98p yesterday.

Options

Reflecting the buoyancy of the equity market, the traded options pitch was active yesterday with as many as 1,428 contracts dealt. ICI was the most frequently traded option, recording 249 contracts. But Marks & Spencer with 220 bargains and GEC with 131 were not very far behind. In the conventional market, dealers reported no activity among short term forwards. For three months, calls were produced in Tesco, Burmah, Ward White, UDT, Spillers, Ugate and Devery among other while a put was arranged in Burmah. Doubles included British Land, Britannia Arrow and Blackman & Conrad.

Exxon to acquire 49 pc of Japanese group

Tokyo, Sept. 11.—Japan's General Sekiyu KK has reached a basic agreement with Exxon's subsidiary, Esso Eastern Corp., for Esso to acquire a 49 per cent interest in General Sekiyu, a spokesman for the Japanese company told a press conference. General Sekiyu will increase its capital to an unspecified level from the present 1,710m yen, while all the new shares allocated to Esso Eastern, giving Esso 49 per cent of General Sekiyu.

The spokesman did not disclose the date of the capital increase. The capital participation by Esso aims at securing a stable supply of oil for the Japanese company.

Esso has agreed to supply crude oil, petroleum products and liquefied petroleum gas to General Sekiyu on the same terms as Esso supplies oil to its own subsidiaries. The basic agreement, General Sekiyu will acquire a 50 per cent interest in Nansai Sekiyu KK from Esso Eastern. Nansai Sekiyu is a Japanese-US oil refining firm in Okinawa, established by Esso Eastern, General Sekiyu and Sumitomo Corp. with a capital of ¥2,000m yen.

Esso holds 50 per cent of the capital with the remaining 50 per cent shared equally by General Sekiyu and Sumitomo. —Reuters

International

by Icipu for the financial rescue of the group through a consortium of banks. Financier Signor Raffaele Ursini, who controls the Ligas group through his stake in Societa Assicuratrice Industriale (SAI), said he is also prepared to hand over his shares in SAI to banks if they will agree on a financial rescue plan for the entire Ligas group. —Reuters

First half-year
profit falls
at Schering

West Berlin.—Schering's operating profit fell in the first half of this year, compared with the same 1977 period, but it still expects a satisfactory profit for the year as a whole. The 3 per cent group turnover rose to DM1,140m (about £294m), against DM1,100m, with sufficient revenue to offset increased costs. In 1977, the group made a DM166.3m net profit on turnover of DM1,130m, while the parent company made DM159.6m on DM1,280m.

The company said parent company turnover in the first half was DM717m, against DM703m, of which DM286m was achieved domestically and DM431m abroad. Both domestic and foreign business developed favourably in the second quarter, wiping out the turn-

over fall in the first quarter and enabling the April-June period to show a better result than in the corresponding period of 1977.

Fixed-asset investments this year will be over the DM106m figure achieved in 1977. —Reuters

Bayerische
Verensbank

Frankfurt.—Bayerische Vereinsbank is planning to raise its capital shortly, but final details have not yet been fixed. Bourse sources said. On December 8 last year, the bank raised its capital to Dm 315m from Dm 260m through a one-for-10 share offer. —Reuters

Northwest Industries

Chicago.—Northwest Industries has obtained an additional \$150m (about £77m) of standby revolving credit, raising the total of such commitments to \$550m. The commitments are with 27 domestic and European banks and have a 10-year term with an average life of nine years. The company said the new commitments provide it with credit resources revolving credits of about \$325m and that it has no present intention of using the new credits. —AP-Dow Jones

United Asbestos

Kuala Lumpur.—United Asbestos Cement reports changes in its foreign shareholders following the sale by Turner and Newall of its 5.4m shares of its holding of 5.4m shares of \$1.00 (Malaysia) each in UAC to other foreign shareholders. —James Hardie Asbestos, of

Australia has acquired 4.42m shares from Turner, raising its holding to 9.82m shares—37.35 per cent of UAC's issued capital.—Reuters

St Gobain

Paris, Sept. 11.—Subscription rights to Saint Gobain Pont et Mousson's share issue rose to six francs on its first day of trading, for an opening 4.50 francs. Bourse sources said. On the forward market "old" shares traded at about 160 francs, with rights, against 153.80 francs, with rights, on Friday. The company is making a one-for-six issue at 120 francs per 100-franc share. —Reuters

Teijin

Tokyo.—Teijin, a synthetic fibre maker, is to forego payment of a dividend for the April-September period. In the year ended last March, Teijin also passed its interim dividend and reduced its payment for the last six months to 8 per cent from 10 per cent. —AP-Dow Jones

Pentland Industries

Interim figures for Pentland Industries show pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30, increased by £94,000 to £261,000. This has been achieved on turnover up by 31 per cent to £1.94m. Last year, the group increased pre-tax profits overall from £546,000 to £753,000. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 0.35p gross, compared with 0.33p for the corresponding period. A further strengthening of the group's position is expected by the board during 1978.

Range Wares' £1m 'rights' issue

Range Wares, the wiremesh group, is proposing to nearly £1m by way of a issue while at the same time announcing its plans to a in the United States. Rights will be on the basis of one new share for every five ordinary shares for every five ordinary held or three new shares

for every five participating preference shares. On last night's closing prices of 22p down 1p, it gives a discount of 45.4 per cent and an ex rights price of 18.2p. The directors intend to take up their entitlement with regard to the rights which represents about 20.95 per cent of the group's total capital. A statement from the group

said the proceeds would be used to provide additional working capital for further expansion and also to make suitable acquisitions as and when the opportunity occurs. A final dividend of 0.29p gross, the first since 1976, has been forecast with total dividends of 0.89p gross forecast for 1979.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION
To the Holders of
City of Dundee
U.S. \$25,000,000 9½% Bonds due 1983

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of the Bonds of the above-described issue, The Bank of New York, as the Principal Paying Agent, has selected by lot for redemption on October 15, 1978, at the redemption price of 100% principal amount thereof, together with accrued

interest to the date fixed for redemption \$4,000,000 principal amount of said Bonds bearing the following distinctive serial numbers:

COUPON BONDS OF \$1,000 EACH

13	588	1088	1887	2111	2948	3171	3787	4322	4263	5863	6017	6808	7267	7726	8228	8181	8806	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
14	238	1662	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
15	288	1088	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
16	338	1108	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
17	388	1128	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
18	438	1148	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
19	488	1168	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
20	538	1208	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
21	588	1228	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
22	638	1248	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
23	688	1268	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
24	738	1288	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
25	788	1308	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
26	838	1328	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
27	888	1348	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
28	938	1368	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
29	988	1388	1676	2122	2607	2191	3707	4257	4284	5863	6017	6808	7276	7735	8232	8281	8907	9707	10273	10357	11334	11917	12841	13138	13711	14231	14778	15388	16046	16831	17673	18324	18888	20220	21048	21837	22628	22818	24289
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Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

PERSONAL CHOICE



Booth and William Squire, who appear in the BBC 1

Wales have taken Jack Jones's flawed book *Off to Philadelphia in the Morning* and repaired it with affection and technical skill. The result, if tonight's opening out (BBC 1, 9.25) of the three-part serialisation of the Welsh composer Jack Jones is typical of the whole, a triumph. It looks and sounds exactly right—the dirt, the steelworks, the heavenly choir. Not only Elaine Morgan's new dialogue has sharpened Jack's diffuse social comment, while still keeping intact the able "human interest". This is something a previous adaptation, *How Green Was My Valley*, could not do. In an unusually strong cast, watch carefully for Donna Edwards's Miriam, daughter of the starred Blind Dick. If you have tears to shed...

have roughly 30 seconds in which to compose your emotions after seeing the Joseph Parry biography you are plunged into the tragic world of the mentally sped in the documentary *Accident of Birth* (10.25) best of programme planning. I was able to see only a programme, which is narrated by Tom Conti, impression I brought away was one of valuable guidance for the mentally handicapped and those whose job are for the afflicted. Brian Rix and his wife appear programme, talking about the birth of their mooging. *Accident of Birth* is a curiously strong cast, watch carefully for Donna Edwards's Miriam, daughter of the starred Blind Dick. If you have tears to shed...

ht's BBC 2 programme *Spitfire* (9.55) fills in the details of the chronology of the wartime Leslie Howard: First of the Few, the story of R. J. Mitchell, the fighter plane which played such a decisive role in the documentary *Accident of Birth* is Group Sir Douglas Bader whose own remarkable wartime he did not need to dwell on here.

Disraeli biography (ITV, 9.45) proceeds apace and sees part 2, which covers the 15 years from 1827 to 1852. Disraeli's disastrous maiden speech in the Commons, where he incurred the displeasure of Victoria because of his on Peel, and watch him proposing to the grief-stricken Mary Anne Wyndham Lewis.

liar and unfamiliar works at the Prom (Radio 3, 7.30), a new violin concerto, by Francis Rainer, commissioned by Menuhin, and Debussy's *La Mer*.

ews Quiz (Radio 4, 10.30) is the one in which they reveal how much, or how little, they have read of leagues' work during the week. It needs colour TV the depth of their blushes.

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am. Open University (until 7.55). 6.40, Kontakto; 7.05, Members of the Jury; 7.30, Solids, liquids and gases; 7.45 pm, News and weather; 1.00, Pebble Mill: today's edition includes Dr David Delvin's Medicine Matters spot; 1.45, Ed: repeat of Bod and the Grasshopper, for children; 3.30, Cowl a Chan: light entertainment in Welsh; 3.55, Play School: Christine Hewitt's story A Tent for the Home (also on BBC 2, 11 am); 4.20, Lippy Lion: cartoon (r); 4.35, Ask Aspel: Sonia Lannan is the guest; 5.00, Job: Graves' News

BBC 2

6.40 am. Open University (until 7.55). 6.40, Maths: generalised integration; 7.05, Social behaviour of animals; 7.30, Waltham Forest: a rejecting society?; 11.00, Play School: See BBC 1, 3.55; 4.55, Open University (until 7.00). 4.55, Computers and thinking; 5.20, Cuba: the revolutionary alternative; 6.10, Cloriana; 6.35, Quantum theory; 7.00, News, with subtitles for the hard of hearing; 7.05, Dilemmas: Physical courage and moral courage—is there a link? Harry Rée, former Professor of Education at York University, thinks

THAMES

9.30, World Within Itself: into an English wood to find out why it is a world of its own; 10.05, Film: The Sound Barrier (1952). Fictional account of how planes became supersonic, with Ralph Richardson, Ann Todd, Nigel Patrick; 12.00, Carlton and the Wheelies: Wheelie World becomes a health farm; 12.10 pm, Pinks: Pig gets rid of some unwanted junk; 12.30, Home-Made for the Home: How to renovate furniture, including upholstery; 1.00, News, with Peter Sissons; 1.20, Thames News; 1.30, Crown Court: A mother denies she exercised control over a 16-year-old prostitute—her daughter; 2.00, Summer After Noon: Mavis Nicholson talks to author Beryl Bainbridge; 2.25, Film: The Seven-Year Itch (1955). The Sex: fantasies of a briefly-left-alone husband (Tom Ewell); Marilyn Monroe is the temptation upstairs; 4.20, Under the Same Sun: James Hyatt narrates this story set in Alaska. It is called The Running Sack.

round: for intelligent young people; 5.10, The Story Beneath the Sands: new series about archaeological discoveries in Egypt. Ray Smith is the story-teller; 5.40, News, with Kenneth Kendall; 5.55, Nationwide: stories behind the news; 6.30 am, Star Trek: The USS Enterprise is pulled closer and closer to a planet that threatens to explode. And why are our valiant space travellers behaving so strangely?; 7.40, Hap: After: comedy series. The Fletchers go to an awful dinner party and Terry's favourite 78 rpm record is ruined; 8.10, Dallas: second episode in this American dynastic saga. Pamela, the new wife, tries to befriend Lucy, the young and wayward blonde. A very neurotic view of present-day Texas; 9.00, News, with Kenneth Kendall; 9.15, Off to Philadelphia in the Morning: first part of an adaptation of Jack Jones' book about the greatest of Welsh musicians (see Personal Choice); 10.25, Accident of Birth: documentary about mental handicap, filmed in hospitals, residential units and schools in Britain and Sweden (see Personal Choice); 11.15, tonight; 11.55, Weather, Regional News.

there may be. Ninth in a series of 10; 7.30, News; 7.35, Best of Brass: grand final of the first nationally televised brass band competition in history. A blow-by-blow (literally) account of a mighty tussle between the Fairfax engineering Works Band and the Park and Dore from the Rhonda; 8.10, Lotherdale—An Image of England: Patrick O'Donovan has written, and Michael Parkinson narrates, this profile of a village in the Yorkshire Pennines. It has been there since long before the Domesday Book was written; 9.00, Jack High: fourth of seven visits to the Kodak Masters Bowls Tournament in Worthing. British Isles champion David McGill takes on

4.45, Magpie: ITV's No 1 programme for youngsters. What the team did in Peru; and Jenny Hanley takes her first parachute jump; 5.15, Emmerdale Farm: The sale is on at Verney; 5.45, News; 6.00, Thames at 6: magazine programme with Andrew Gar-



Patrick Cargill in Father, Dear Father (ITV, 7.00).

current champion John Russell Evans; 9.30, Carl Perkins Sings Country: programme recorded at Snape Maltings. Mr Perkins, a rock singer of some repute, has been in the business for so long that his sons play in the group that supports him, the CP Express; 9.35, Spitfire: documentary about one of the most famous fighter planes of all time. Raymond Baxter tells the story. (See Personal Choice); 9.45, Beneath the Femmes: the film in camera; Porcu's series of films about the sport that has been described as climbing mountains from the inside; 11.15, News; 11.55, Closedown: Ted Walker's story Estuary read by John Rye.

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Radio 4

6.00 am. News-Weather; 6.30, Farming Today; 6.30, Today, Magazine; 8.45, A High Wind in Jamaica (7); 9.00, News; 9.05, Tuesday Call; 10.00, News; 10.05, New Britons (5); 10.20, Daily Service; 10.45, Story: Our White Deer; 11.00, News; 11.05, Play: Last Respects; 11.35, Archaeological magazine; 12.00, News; 12.05, You and Yours; 12.10, Desert Island Discs; 12.55, Weather; 1.00, World at One; 1.30, The Archers; 1.35, Woman's Hour; 2.45, Listen with Mother; 3.00, News; 3.05, Lady of the Camellias (21); 4.05, Gardeners' Question Time; 4.15, Story: The Sword in the Stone (7); 5.00, Reports; 5.40, Sereniphidy; 5.55, Weather; 6.00, News; 6.30, I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue; 7.00, News; 7.05, The Archers; 7.20, Time for Verse; 7.30, Proms, at Radio 3 (s); 7.40, Sereniphidy; 7.55, Weather; 8.00, World Tonight; 8.10, News; 8.15, Story: Zorba the Greek (12); 11.15, Financial World Tonight; 11.30, News; 12.10-12.23 am, Inshore Forecast.

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9.45 am. The Used Word; 9.50, News; 10.00, News; 10.05, News; 10.10, News; 10.15, News; 10.20, News; 10.25, News; 10.30, News; 10.35, News; 10.40, News; 10.45, News; 10.50, News; 10.55, News; 11.00, News; 11.05, News; 11.10, News; 11.15, News; 11.20, News; 11.25, News; 11.30, News; 11.35, News; 11.40, News; 11.45, News; 11.50, News; 11.55, News; 12.00, News; 12.05, News; 12.10, News; 12.15, News; 12.20, News; 12.25, News; 12.30, News; 12.35, News; 12.40, News; 12.45, News; 12.50, News; 12.55, News; 1.00, News; 1.05, News; 1.10, News; 1.15, News; 1.20, News; 1.25, News; 1.30, News; 1.35, News; 1.40, News; 1.45, News; 1.50, News; 1.55, News; 2.00, News; 2.05, News; 2.10, News; 2.15, News; 2.20, News; 2.25, News; 2.30, News; 2.35, News; 2.40, News; 2.45, News; 2.50, News; 2.55, News; 3.00, News; 3.05, News; 3.10, News; 3.15, News; 3.20, News; 3.25, News; 3.30, News; 3.35, News; 3.40, News; 3.45, News; 3.50, News; 3.55, News; 4.00, News; 4.05, News; 4.10, News; 4.15, News; 4.20, News; 4.25, News; 4.30, News; 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